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CONTRIBUTORS

RUCKER AGEE, of Birmingham, has long been active in the Association, serving as vice-president in 1950 and president in 1951.

HAMNER COBBS, of Greensboro, is editor of the *Greensboro Watchman*.

LEON SENSABAUGH is a professor of history at Birmingham-Southern College.

JANE PORTER NABERS, a graduate of Goucher College, and VIRGINIA POUNDS BROWN, a graduate of Randolph Macon Woman's College and Emory University, became interested in Jefferson County place names while doing research in Mary Gordon Duffee's unpublished "Sketches of Alabama, Jones Valley." They are residents of Birmingham.

ELISABETH JOAN DOYLE is a member of the staff of the Louisiana State University Press.

Marking Historic Sites in Alabama

By RUCKER AGEE

FAMILIARITY with local traditions and local history is essential to a pride in one's home, whether it be the nation, state, county, or community.¹ A love of the section in which one resides grows and develops with increasing knowledge of its local history.

The Alabama Historical Association is dedicated to the "discovery, production, preservation and diffusion of whatever may relate to the natural, civil, literary, cultural, economic, ecclesiastical and political history of the State of Alabama." The Association affords a medium of expression for those interested in the furtherance of these objectives. And so its membership harmoniously blends the professional historian, the eager student, the enthusiastic amateur, and a great many men and women who have a pride in our past, who cherish our heritage and who desire to learn more.

At its ultimate source all history is local. Each item originated at some point somewhere. A combination of local events may have gained such magnitude and such force as to have become nationwide in consequences. Local history attracts the interest of citizens of all ages, in all fields of human endeavor, and in all economic conditions. We proudly observe on our rolls citizens who have moved only recently to our state. There are members whose great-grandparents came here. Among us, too, are citizens who have moved away from Alabama and yet desire to preserve an identity with the culture of their former home. From the most recent recruit to the scion of the oldest family, we now have a common heritage. Our richest source of cultural

¹This paper was read as the presidential address before the Alabama Historical Association, Decatur, April 19, 1952.

interest is found in our past. Together we propose to discover it, to produce it, to preserve it, and to diffuse it.

Obviously, history can be taught most effectively to our youth. But history is that branch of learning the desire for which seems to increase with maturity and age. An urge for knowledge of its past seems to be an instinct of the human race. It exists in all countries. Manifestations of this urge—active or latent—are constantly found. Perhaps this is largely explained by the fact that each of us was taught, in the process of rearing, some local history in our homes during childhood. This interest may be dormant for the individual during the most active period of adult economic and social competition. So also it may be latent for a people in times of especial hardship, as in a new environment, or in periods of struggle against forces that consume their energies in preserving their existence. Sooner or later in the life of an individual or in the history of a people, when the economic or social struggle is lessened, there seems to recur a revived interest in the history affecting that individual or that people.

Today in the South, at a time when we are making far faster progress than the nation as a whole, relatively much more time, effort and talent than ever before is being devoted to study, evaluation and interpretation of the history of our section.

Aside from history, few of the learned sciences can be successfully taught the individual after reaching maturity. In history, the opportunity is unlimited, regardless of age.

Most effective is the written word, based on research, properly documented, and well evaluated. It is not alone the professional historian whose writings are of great value to the preservation of the historical record. Much of our most authentic source material is that recorded by an individual who simply wrote down the facts of his own experience or those discovered by him as to events that have gone before. However, the written document, even when published, has

limited circulation and so remains unknown to many who would be interested. Effective distribution of printed matter is a difficult and costly problem. Furthermore, the written word alone is not sufficient. It never vitalizes adequately all that can be experienced from a personal visit to the site where some historic event has taken place. There, at the scene, the deeds of men long gone become more real. A conception and visualization often arises in the mind which the written word could never inspire.

The written word cannot convey one's conceptions when visiting the scene of colonial Williamsburg, ante-bellum Natchez, the old French Quarter in New Orleans, or the Spanish Fort at St. Augustine. Who can describe the thrill experienced when one stands at the site of Fort Louis de la Mobile, established 250 years ago by order of the Court of Louis XIV, the Grand Monarch, as the capital of half a continent? This was a main base in a well-planned scheme to seize control of North America from Spain and England. Who can convey by words the impressions made by a personal visit to Horseshoe Bend in the Tallapoosa River, where in 1814 American forces with the aid of friendly Cherokees and Creeks under Andrew Jackson, broke the power of the great Creek Confederacy, fighting to maintain the homelands of their forefathers? Can language describe the conceptions of one at the junction of the Cahawba and the Alabama in the ghost of the first permanent capital of our state, carved there out of the wilderness? What author can describe the emotions of a visitor to Black Creek, where in 1863 Emma Sansom, in the face of enemy gunfire, bravely stepped forward to lead General Forrest to a ford, in order that his command might ignore the burning bridge, capture the much larger force of Colonel Streight, and save the principal line of rail supply and reinforcement for the largest Confederate army west of the Appalachian Mountains?

To stand on such hallowed ground is to experience a thrill

above and beyond any that written language can convey. But unless these sites and events are identified, they are meaningless and of no more interest than any other spot of ground. Even when no physical evidences of historic events remain, identification of a site stimulates curiosity and encourages the individual to seek further information. The most effective means of gratifying this mass desire for knowledge of the past is through the identification, preservation, and restoration of historic sites, commemorated by monuments, boulders or plaques.

Increasing curiosity as to the historic past is manifest throughout America and is an evidence of our maturity. In every section of our country something is being done about identifying and marking sites of local history. Methods vary. In some states, by legislative act, a variety of types of historical commissions, enjoying various powers, have been created. Some have large appropriations to restore sites, create historic parks, erect monuments and markers. In a number the initiative and responsibility is left to state historical societies. State appropriations are often justified in the name of the tourist trade, the economic value of which in America is very great. It is a by-product of the historic site of first importance. The traveler wants something to see, somewhere to go, and definite information. Well-marked historic sites are a never-failing attraction to the mounting stream of people who are continually flowing back and forth across America.

But the greatest value from a knowledge of local history accrues to the local citizen, whether a child in grammar school or one in the latter days of life. Knowledge of local history not only stimulates a love of home, a pride in one's section, and a better understanding of our modern problems, but also is essential to the development to a patriotic citizenship in its finest aspects. Citizens of the several states generally are aware of these values and have taken steps to capitalize on

them. Some of the older states of the eastern seaboard began in a haphazard way without standards or adequate research. Some have overdone the marker idea with numbers of markers commemorating trivial incidents.

In the newer states of the West history is short and worthy sites are few. The task is simple. Several of these states have adopted a large wooden signboard marker of rustic appearance, with lengthy text designating an old trail, a fur trading post, an Indian skirmish or point of first settlement and passing on to the grandeur of the scenery. This type of marker in that environment has proven quite popular and a source of active interest in satisfying the visitor's desire for historic information.

Here in Alabama the undertaking is relatively stupendous, because of the length and diversity of our history and because of the interest and significance of our eventful past, surpassing in some respects that of any portion of America. Here the recorded history of the white man began 100 years before the Pilgrims set foot on Plymouth Rock. Here more than 400 years ago a series of well-equipped expeditions of conquistadors of Spain came exploring, conquering, and attempting colonization with royal commissions to govern this land.

Later, here overlapped the conflicting claims of Spain, France and England in their struggles for control of North America. Meanwhile, here were established in their ancestral homelands the four great civilized Indian nations—the Creeks, the Choctaws, the Cherokees, and the Chickasaws. Here through intrigue and negotiation agents of the European powers were constantly seeking advantages of alliance and trade with the Indian tribes. Among the leaders of these Indians were some of the illustrious sons of our soil.

Here occurred the Creek wars, the fiercest, the most stubbornly fought, and the longest contested Indian wars in America. Here the pioneer moved into the ceded Indian lands but was quickly followed by a migration of planters

from the states of the Atlantic seaboard. These soon established the distinctive cotton culture of the Gulf Coast states. Here, during the war for Southern independence, were found some of the most ardent leaders and supporters of the Southern cause. Alabama supplied the cream of her manhood for the armies. Alabama, the most isolated of the blockaded states, forsook cotton for the production of food for the army commissary and converted to industrial production, with supplies for the quartermaster, ordnance for the army and armor-clad ships for the navy. Then followed the horrors of military occupation and the humiliation of Reconstruction. Our people had surrendered, but their spirits were never broken. They finally regained control of the government of the state and without subsidy or outside aid, set about the rebuilding of the South into the present section of scientific agriculture and modern industry, based on research.

Meanwhile, Alabama's sons went forth to fight in the wars of their country, founded and established by their forefathers, the Spanish-American War, World War I and World War II.

Yes, we have a proud heritage here, one which the citizen may assume as his own whether he has just arrived among us or whether his forebears first came here. Each of us adopted this state at some time in our family history. Our tradition is a source of interest and pride to the newest comer, the oldest family and the visitor within our borders. Yet, compared to other states, Alabama has done relatively little to capitalize on these values and to inform ourselves and our visitors of our interesting history. Our advantage is that we may observe and profit by the mistakes of our sister states. Possibly we have been too busy making history to take time off to do much about it. This affords an opportunity for all who are interested to adopt projects of their own choosing, including research and writing, erection of

monuments, stones and plaques, restoration of buildings and creation of parks at historic sites.

Although it may seem that we have done little to advertise and publicize our history, it has by no means been ignored by our people. Our history has been taught in the home by the mother. It has been taught by such scholars as George Petrie at Auburn and Thomas C. McCorvey at Tuscaloosa. It has been recorded by such students as Albert J. Pickett, Peter Hamilton, and Walter M. Fleming. Priceless source material was gathered and preserved by Thomas M. Owen, who organized the Alabama Department of Archives and History, the first state department of its kind in America. Furthermore, there have now been developed in our colleges departments of history of the highest professional standards. Our professors of Southern history include scholars and teachers of accomplishment and distinction, ranking in the top tier of their profession. Many of our librarians are well aware of their opportunity to serve the cause of local history by offering published volumes and accumulating and preserving source material for the student.

Although it is not generally known, a large number of historical markers have been placed in Alabama, usually at the actual sites of events of importance in our state's history. This has been accomplished over the years primarily by patriotic societies of women, with characteristic imagination and energy. Among them are the monuments, stones and plaques placed by the Colonial Dames, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and the United States Daughters of 1812. Local historical societies have also marked a number of sites. Notable are the works of the Historic Mobile Preservation Society and the Birmingham Historical Society. Also worthy of note are markers placed by the Alabama Anthropological Society, the Historical Society of the Alabama Conference of the Methodist Church, and several county societies.

The Alabama Historical Association applauds their achievements and pledges its assistance for their further accomplishments.

With regard to the marking of historic sites, the Association has chosen as its particular field of endeavor the erection of markers on main highways of the state. Thus may bits of our history be presented to the tens of thousands who travel our highways daily. These markers will call attention to, inform about, and often point the way to sites of interest. This program is supplemental to and cooperative with the endeavors of others interested in marking sites, restoring buildings or establishing historic parks. Under the leadership of Hill Ferguson, markers have been sponsored by the Association commemorating the Battle of Horseshoe Bend, the career of Fighting Joe Wheeler, the route of Forrest across North Alabama in pursuit of Streight, the founding of Cahawba, and the establishment of the University of Alabama, Alabama Polytechnic Institute, and Bryce Hospital. Last night a marker was dedicated here commemorating the Decatur terminus of the first railroad west of the Allegheny Mountains.

The enlarged marker program of the Association had its origin, after a conference with the director of the Alabama Department of Conservation, in a request to members for recommendations of sites. Several hundred responded, each with one to a dozen suggestions. These returns were referred to a committee of authorities on Alabama history. Duplications were eliminated, errors were corrected, statements of fact were prepared. A number of suggestions were held in abeyance pending further investigation. Some were determined to be unworthy of commemoration by the state Association, although entirely worthy of local recognition. Meanwhile, individual members of the committee added a large number of suggestions with a view to making the list more typical of the several periods and phases of our long

and varied history. Still there is no pretense at completeness. In response to widespread demand from members, the preliminary list of suggestions now before the committee, has been printed for distribution to those interested. Many of the suggestions will be recognized as concise, telegraphic paragraphs on interesting phases of our history, rather than recognition of a precise site.

There are many hundred sites in Alabama that deserve consideration. Residence in Alabama over a long period by the four great civilized Indian tribes of America requires recognition and affords an opportunity peculiar to our locale. The territory embraced in every county of this state was, at one time or another, ceded by one of these Indian nations to the white man in a formal written treaty.

It is of prime importance that the Association marker be of distinctive design and easily recognizable from a distance. The type marker deemed most effective for Alabama is a simple, dignified sign, erected on a substantial post, to the side of the road, with identical text on two sides, exposed perpendicularly to the highway. From the standpoint of durability and maintenance, the most satisfactory material is an aluminum alloy.

If these markers are to be effective, sites must be worthy and texts accurate. As a guarantee of worthiness the marker will bear the Association name in small letters at the bottom, leaving as much space as possible for information of historic interest. Each marker is an individual project, requiring in all its aspects meticulous care and planning. First, competent authority must be responsible through research and knowledge for worthiness of the event in the state's history. In establishing and maintaining high standards of significance, it is important to determine what not to mark, as well as what to mark. Each marker should contain identity as to time by a date or period. In some states the inaccuracy of fact in a few markers has impaired confidence in all the

markers. Second, the marker should be properly located both in relation to the site and in relation to highway engineering. It will frequently point the way and give the distance to the actual site. The marker should be visible to the speeding motorist from a distance, and therefore should not be placed near the top of a hill, on a curve, or at a point of congested traffic. It is not sufficient to examine a road map and designate the place for a highway marker. Observations on the ground are essential. Third, the wording of the marker text is of paramount importance. The message must be telegraphic in scope. If the marker is to be read by the speeding motorist, the maximum that should be presented is a heading and a text of thirty to thirty-five words in six or seven lines. The type must be legible and easy to read. The information conveyed must be factual, clear, explicit,—conveying a fact that can be rapidly grasped and retained. Highway markers have been erected which are ambiguous and leave no clear-cut impression as to the historic events commemorated.

It has been suggested that the obvious and easiest way to get a large number of markers erected in a short time is by legislative appropriation. This does not appeal to us. Those whose deeds we are planning to commemorate largely relied on their own resources. Individual initiative and cooperation under local leadership is exemplified throughout Alabama history. The men and women of our past rarely sought government aids, and where they did, it was usually their weakness and their failure. Observation of results in other states clearly shows that state appropriations are frequently obtained at the sacrifice of high standards of historic worthiness. Obligations are apt to be incurred by those who assist with the legislation, and can only be repaid by the erection of markers commemorating such trivialities as the construction of the first local grist mill.

In examining reports from those states where highway

markers have been erected wholesale, pursuant to legislative appropriation, there is usually found strong evidence of a compelling force to distribute the markers equally throughout the state. These reports often point out that markers have been erected in every section, or that at an early date, several markers will be provided for each county. Obviously, this is in response to political pressures, not historical worthiness. There is no evidence that those whose deeds have become historic, had clairvoyant powers to determine where county lines would be drawn.

As a compromise, some states have met the political problem by marking county boundaries, giving the date of organization and the origin of the county name. This easily creates a multiplicity of markers of no particular significance in the history of a state and serves to obscure markers pertaining to important sites. For instance, most people of Houston County would agree that the county boundary created in 1903 is hardly appropriate for an association marker, but would approve a marker recording their section as the ancestral home of the Seminoles throughout the colonial period, ceded in 1814 by the Treaty of Fort Jackson. Those of Cullman County would agree that its boundaries, established in 1877, are not so interesting in the state's history as is the fact that on Hog Mountain in 1863 Forrest's command fought a desperate battle with Union raiders on a cloudy night. In this engagement the location of opposing forces at close range was established only by enemy gunfire. Forrest had three horses shot out from under him.

With the abundance of interesting and historically significant sites in Alabama, there is an enormous amount of meticulous detailed work to be done on a program of highway markers. The particular talents and interests of many members of the Association are needed. The Committee on Selection is composed of Peter A. Brannon, chairman, archivist, Alabama Department of Archives and History; Dr.

A. B. Moore, dean of the Graduate School, University of Alabama; Dr. A. W. Reynolds, head of the Department of History, Alabama Polytechnic Institute; Walter M. Jackson, superintendent, Decatur Public Schools. The President of the Association is an ex-officio member.

It is believed that many desirable highway markers can be financed by contributions from those having an interest in the program. The Association will serve as a vehicle for the research, editing and ground survey, provide a distinctive design of marker with the Association's name inconspicuously thereon as a stamp of worthiness, and undertake to obtain the approval of the several state agencies concerned. Naturally, sponsors will be privileged to choose sites in their own localities or subjects in their particular field of interest. In no case will the sponsor's name appear on the marker as a donor. These markers will advertise our history, not our contemporaries.

The markers cost about \$125 each. A newspaper editor has expressed his intention to request a donation of \$1 each from 125 people to pay for a marker in their county. A member has stated that he will ask twenty-four friends to join him in contributing \$5 each for a marker at an important site near his home. A marker may be had by five contributions of \$25 each. Representatives of luncheon clubs, chambers of commerce and patriotic societies have expressed an interest in providing money for various markers, either by seeking contributions from their members or appropriations from their treasuries. Several individuals have offered to pay for a marker of their own choosing from the approved sites. Officials of several corporations have indicated an interest in paying for markers in the neighborhood of their plants. Donations to the Association are believed to be deductible in income tax accounting. An official ruling to that effect is being sought. In a separate bank account, the Association

has several hundred dollars already donated to pay for markers.

No markers will be sponsored unless approved by the appropriate state departments, each in its particular field of jurisdiction. We believe the general plan of our program has the approval of Governor Gordon Persons and each of the state departments concerned. Without their full cooperation little could be accomplished. By law, the Department of Conservation has direction and control over the natural resources, state parks and monuments, and the marking and publicizing of historical sites. Our lawmakers wisely limited this activity to sites designated by the Department of Archives and History. Director Earl M. McGowin of the Department of Conservation has shown his active interest in a number of conferences and much correspondence and pledged the full cooperation of his Department. Director Marie Bankhead Owen of the Department of Archives and History has assisted by constructive suggestions and has made available the unpublished chapters of her work on Alabama history, having to do with historic sites and monuments in Alabama. The State Highway Department has complete responsibility for the construction and maintenance of state highways and the control of the rights of way. Highway Director W. G. Pruett assures us of cooperation in the location, installation and maintenance of markers on highways.

The placement of markers has been delayed, pending investigation of experience in other states, for adequate planning of a program particularly designed for our state, and because of the shortage of aluminum for markers, due to defense requirements.

We have a plan and are now ready to go forward. We propose to give the motorist on our highways interesting gems of our history. Be they our fellow citizens or our visitors, be they young or old, we hope that they may be stimulated to visit our historic sites and monuments, to read

our history and to have a greater interest and pride in our heritage.

“Breathes there the man with soul so dead,
Who never to himself hath said,
This is my own, my native land!
Whose heart hath ne’er within him burn’d,
As home his footsteps he hath turn’d,
From wandering on a foreign strand!”

The Origin of Certain Place Names in Jefferson County, Alabama

By VIRGINIA POUNDS BROWN and JANE PORTER NABERS

CENTURIES AGO the mountainous ridges and valleys of Jefferson County stretched nameless on the land. Outcroppings of coal which would someday bear the name of the men who discovered them extruded along river banks, and rocks of iron ore flashed red on the mountain tops. Springs without names bubbled from limestone, and nameless streams cut their way to unnamed rivers.

Then at last men came, wave after wave of them, claiming the land for a while, and imposing names of their language on it. First, the Indian explored the wilderness, naming a ridge for the Chinquapin growing there, or a creek for the raccoon hunted along its banks. Soon followed the white pioneer, winding his way through the Tennessee mountains and down into the broad Alabama valleys, settling a spring which would come in time to have his name. From the Indian he retained many nature names indigenous to the region, translating their meaning into his language, and adding other names which reflected his pioneer existence. Unfortunate indeed was the settler in the Trussville area who first chanced upon a *Stinking Creek* at the foot of *Polecat Ridge* and other settlers who had their troubles also were the namers of *Starve-acre Ford*, *Hanty Hollow*, *Pinchgut Creek*, and *Trouble Creek*.

Until 1871 the origin of place names in Jefferson County

followed a pattern common to the State of Alabama as a whole. Then, suddenly, with the founding of Birmingham names began to appear which could be traced to one source only, the discovery and development of the limitless mineral resources. Thus does a description of place names of the county logically divide itself into two periods.

Andrew Jackson's 1813-1814 campaign against the Creek Indians influenced in many ways the future of Alabama. The officers and men who fought with Old Hickory were ex-officio publicity agents to proclaim the vast expanse of virgin land; or, enthusiastic, they returned themselves, on roads made passable by Jackson's troops, to possess the free land abounding in fertility. In the first land sales (1819), only farming and wooded areas were desired. Few outside of Jackson's blacksmiths knew of any wealth buried beneath the timbered hills where Jefferson County now lies.

When the pioneers came, they found that the Indians had not lived in this section but had used it for hunting and ceremonial purposes. Their annual pilgrimages had left their marks in trails, mounds and graves.¹ In Jefferson County today a few place names remain as memorials of Indian possession. *Cahaba River* was shown on the map of General Jackson's campaign against the Indians as *Cawmuba River*, afterwards known in 1816, and subsequently through 1860, as *Cahawba*. The name originated from the Choctaw *oka*, "water," plus *aba*, "above,"² because the Cahaba was the "river above" to the Coosa River Indians. On its west bank on Jackson's map is shown *Mudtown* or *Tullavahajah*, burnt by Jackson, May 1, 1814. Peter A. Brannon has written

¹ For list of Jefferson County mounds and prehistoric works, see *Handbook of the Alabama Anthropological Society, 1910* (Montgomery, 1910), p. 46; for trails, see George Powell, "A Description and History of Blount County," in *Transactions of the Alabama Historical Society, at the Annual Meeting . . . July 9th and 10th, 1855* (Tuskaloosa, 1855), p. 38; and Mary Gordon Duffee, "Sketches of Alabama, Jones Valley" (typescript from Birmingham *Iron Age*, 1885-1886, 1909-1910, Birmingham, 1937, in Southern Collection, Birmingham Public Library), I, 197; II, 153.

² William A. Read, *Indian Place-Names in Alabama* (Baton Rouge, 1937), p. 10.

that Tullavahajah was the Indian word for Mudtown.³ Four miles north of Trussville was located another Indian town, *Turkey Creek*, which later became a United States post office of the same name.⁴

Several Indian towns outside of present Jefferson County boundaries may have been at one time or another within the county, since the boundaries have been changed twice. *Oldtown* or *Black Warrior Town* was a large encampment, abandoned when the Indians heard of the approach of General Coffee, who burned the village in 1813. "In the early settlement of the valley, a few remaining bands of the Creek tribe annually traversed this region, from their camp at Mudtown on the Cahaba to Oldtown on the Warrior, on their trading expeditions in belts, bows and arrows, and cane baskets."⁵ *Talluababsho*, "crazy town," about ten miles south of Birmingham, was another Creek town far to the northwest of the major tribal villages.⁶

Although Black Warrior Town is shown on Jackson's map, the *Warrior River* does not appear. However, a London 1794 map of Alabama shows a Tascaloosa River, which on Tanner's 1822 map became "*Tuscaloosa or Black Warrior River*." Originally, the lower part of the river was called "Apotaka Hacha," *Border River*, as it was the boundary between the Choctaw and Creek countries.⁷ Tuscaloosa replaced this name in the late eighteenth century. Choctaw in source (*tashka*, "warrior," plus *lusa*, "black") Tuscaloosa was the name of a Maubila chief who fought DeSoto in 1540.⁸ Today

³ Peter A. Brannon to authors, Montgomery, August 22, 1951: "Concerning Mudtown, Tullavahajah is the Indian word, though I doubt very seriously whether the Indianologist would spell it that way."

⁴ Thomas M. Owen, *History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography* (Chicago, 1921), II, 1332.

⁵ Duffee, *op. cit.*, II, 121.

⁶ *Handbook of the Alabama Anthropological Society*, 1920 (Montgomery, 1920) p. 52.

⁷ Owen, *op. cit.*, II, 1334.

⁸ Read, *op. cit.*, p. 71. Read notes the appearance of a Tascaloussa River on DeCrenay's Map, 1773.

the Warrior is technically the portion of the river below the city of Tuscaloosa, that above being known as the Black Warrior. In 1918 Senator John Hollis Bankhead made the distinction official, when the Rivers and Harbors Committee of Congress refused further aid to the Warrior but were willing to build a lock on the Black Warrior.⁹

Early settlers knew *Valley Creek*, flowing across the valley, as *Cuttacoochee Creek*, derived from the "Chickasaw *okhoata-kachi*, 'crosswise,' with an implied *bok*, 'creek,' preceding the adjective."¹⁰ The Choctaws called a small branch east of Irondale *Kanetuck* from *kantak*, "smilax," whose roots furnished meal for bread.¹¹ Although the *Sipse*y Fork of the Warrior River is not now in Jefferson County, it was cited at the creation of the county as part of the boundary. Its name derives from the Choctaw *sipsi*, "cottonwood" or "poplar,"¹² a tree later noted in *Poplar Springs*.

Other names dating back to the days of the Mississippi Territory (1798-1817) partake of Indian origin. Early traders with the Chickasaws, traversing "the hill country," found one valley so dark and forbidding, so dangerous from the Indians by whom some had been murdered, that it was called by Indians and traders "*The Shades of Death*."¹³ The vicinity was listed on maps by that name, and the adjacent mountain and stream became the well-known *Shades Mountain* and *Shades Creek*.

⁹ Birmingham News, June 28, 1942.

¹⁰ Read, *op cit.*, p. 74. Although Read prefers "crosswise of the valley," he cites W. S. Wyman's derivation, "Valley Creek" from *okkattahaka hutche*.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, p. 37. Or *Kanetuck* may be a corruption of *kinta*, "beaver," plus *oka*, "water."

¹² *Ibid.*, p. 59.

¹³ W. S. Wyman to Hill Ferguson, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, September 28, 1911 (in Reference Department, Birmingham Public Library), confirmed this as the correct derivation. Duffee tells an incredible tale of a Mr. Shade who was lost in the valley near the creek for days. When found, he was so emaciated that a Mr. Cox named the valley "The Shades of Death" (*op. cit.*, 11, 27-28); Ethel M. Armes gives two other explanations: (1) a skeleton found on the banks of the creek occasioned "The Shades of Death," (2) the dense foliage in the valley led to the name, "Valley of the Shadows" (*Story of Coal and Iron in Alabama*, Birmingham, 1910, p. 42).

Red Mountain originates from the Indians' use of "red-dye rock" for war paint and dye. In order to obtain the desirable rock which colored all it touched, they travelled long distances, even from the Mississippi River.¹⁴ In 1850, Michael Tuomey affirmed the name of Red Mountain in technical terms as "a name . . . derived from a bed of red oxide of iron, that is nearly always present."¹⁵ The Indians sought another precious metal in this section. *Camp Branch* was named for a camping ground where Indians came in order to get silver from an old mine nearby.¹⁶

The Indians influenced the land only slightly as compared with the pioneers who came after the United States had ordered the Indians West and opened the section to homesteaders. Looking for permanent homesites, the first settlers came in 1816. Their trek wound into the valley between the range of Red Mountain and a parallel range of hills called *Sand Mountain* for the millstone grit formation.¹⁷ John Jones and his brother-in-law Caleb Fryley, of Madison County, Tennessee, brought their household goods in the first wagon to come into the section which in 1818 was to be named Blount County, subsequently Jefferson County. John Jones was a reckless fellow who soon earned the sobriquet, "Devil John," notorious enough to have *Jones Valley* named for him. Typical of him was a quarrel with fellow-settler William Roupe, who promptly sold out and moved into the valley below, soon known as *Roupe's Valley*.¹⁸

By 1818 the General Land Office estimated Jones Valley's inhabitants at 4,000. Its first town, *Jonesboro*, also named

¹⁴ Duffee, *op. cit.*, II, 21; Armes, *op. cit.*, p. 10.

¹⁵ Michael Tuomey, *First Biennial Report on the Geology of Alabama* (Tuscaloosa, 1850), p. 9.

¹⁶ Duffee, *op. cit.*, I, 203.

¹⁷ Tuomey, *op. cit.*, p. 9.

¹⁸ Powell, *op. cit.*, p. 38; Thomas Maxwell, *Tuskaloosa, the Origin of Its Name, Its History, etc.* (Tuscaloosa, 1876), p. 50. Duffee quotes a letter from Dr. Andrew Jones of Amity, Arkansas, Dec. 18, 1886 (*op. cit.*, II, 223). *Roupe* is also spelled *Rupe* and *Roup*.

for John Jones, grew around crude Fort Jonesboro, built of logs as security against the Indians but seldom used.¹⁹ The village is listed as *Jonesborough* on United States post office records, 1828-1830. La Tourrette's 1845 map shows French influence by noting it as *Jonesville*. When the Alabama Great Southern Railroad graded from Tuscaloosa to Birmingham, the direct route passed about two miles east of Jonesboro. The merchants, faced with a transportation problem, gradually moved away from the old village to the railroad. Inhabitants followed to the new location which is now known as *Jonesboro*, a suburb of Bessemer.²⁰ The original town no longer exists.

On December 13, 1819, just prior to the creation of the State of Alabama, Blount County was divided into two parts, the lower portion becoming *Jefferson County*, named for Thomas Jefferson. The courts of the new county were held at *Carrollsville*, sometimes called *Carrollton*, for two terms before their removal to a permanent seat of justice. On the Huntsville stage road, where Powderly is now, Carrollsville was a small village noted by Duffee for blacksmith shops, an old water mill and "several of those peculiar beautiful trees know as Lombardy poplars," standing like sentinels. Thomas Carroll, who had come to the vicinity of Jonesboro in 1816 with Daniel Watkins, erected the first schoolhouse in Jefferson County. Duffee reports that Carrollsville was named for him, but in an article in the *Birmingham News*, June 28, 1935, Mrs. Kate Eubank Blackburn stated that Robert Eubank named the community Carrollton in honor of General Carroll, under whom he had fought in the "Mexican War."²¹

¹⁹ Bayliss E. Grace, "Early History," in John W. DuBose (ed.), *Jefferson County and Birmingham, Alabama* (Birmingham, 1887), p. 54.

²⁰ *Birmingham News*, August 26, 1928.

²¹ Eubank's son, born in 1818, one of the first children born in the county, was named William Carroll. The writers believe, because of a discrepancy in dates (the "Mexican War" was not until 1846) that the general to whom Mrs. Blackburn

The Jefferson County seat of justice was permanently established in 1820 at *Elyton*, a village in Jones Valley. Formerly, Elyton had been known as *Frog Level*, its "chief business" being horseracing. Reverend Anson West tells an interesting story of a particular race which sorely tempted the pupils of Andrew Moore, who had forbidden them to attend. The fateful race ended in a violent row, although no one was killed in spite of fingers, fists, knives, sticks, and teeth "in actual collision."²² The district, however, outgrew its spirited youth. W. H. Ely, a Federal land agent, came to Frog Level in 1819 "to locate the lands Congress had donated to the Hartford, Conn., deaf and dumb asylum."²³ He deeded to Jefferson County a quarter section of land for Elyton, provided the courthouse should be located there. Thus Elyton became a county seat and a crossroads of traffic. Soon the village grew to be a converging point of immigration. On Tanner's 1825 map it is shown on the old Huntsville Road to Tuscaloosa, along with Carrollton, Salem, and Jonesboro. Quickly eager settlers purchased available lands bordering roads and streams, and a rapid succession of small communities sprouted throughout the county.

Elyton was abundantly supplied with water from a limestone spring once known as Big Boiling Spring. Other springs in the vicinity allured pioneers seeking to ease the struggle of everyday living. *Brown's Spring* was named for John Brown, one of the first settlers of Elyton, a legislator and probate judge, who was living at the spring when Andrew

refers must have been Major-General William Carroll, who was Andrew Jackson's Inspector-General. General Carroll's colorful career enhances the interest of the story. Known as Tennessee's "business governor" (1821-1827, 1829-1835), he retained that office longer than any other governor. His bringing to the Cumberland River its first steamboat, the *Andrew Jackson*, marked the period of the opening of the Mississippi to American vessels.

²² Anson West, *History of Methodism in Alabama* (Nashville, 1893), pp 152-153.

²³ Willis Brewer, *Alabama; Her History, Resources, War Record, and Public Men from 1540 to 1872* (Montgomery, 1872), p. 290. See also W. Stanley Hoole (ed.), "Elyton, Alabama, and the Connecticut Asylum: The Letters of William H. Ely, 1820-1821," *Alabama Review*, III, 36-69 (January, 1950).

Moore opened his school there in December, 1819.²⁴ *Brownsville*, in the same location, shown on La Tourrette's 1845 map, was still a post office in 1878. Brown's Spring later became *Nabor's Spring*, a name also noted in *Nabor's Brook*. The farm which surrounded the spring and branch was first owned by William Nabers, whose son, Francis Drayton, located flour and grist mills on the branch. Although map entries show Nabors, the family name had been variously spelled Neighbours, Nabours, and Nabers until the latter became standard before the time of Francis Drayton.

Williamson Hawkins, who had been a member of Coffee's Brigade, owned a large plantation west of Elyton on Village Creek. His son, David, in 1830 settled at *Hawkins Spring*, "one of the largest, deepest, and prettiest springs in all the region; it repeated an echo for nearly a minute, when a stone was dropped into it."²⁵ The present Thomas plant of Republic Steel Corporation was built on the site of the Hawkins' farm.

In 1819 Dr. Peyton King, a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, began practicing as the first physician in Jonesboro. Later he moved up the valley where his home occupied the site of the present Avondale Library, and the Avondale Spring was known as *King's Spring*. King's plantation originally included the property now known as *Kingston*, a settlement adjoining East Birmingham.²⁶

Two of the leading stores of old Jonesboro were McAdory's and Thomas M. Owen & Son. South of Jonesboro on the Eastern Valley Road is *Owen's Gap*, named for the same Thomas Owen, who also founded *Owenton*.²⁷ Thomas Mc-

²⁴ West, *op. cit.*, p. 152.

²⁵ Duffee, *op. cit.* I, 29.

²⁶ George M. Cruikshank, *A History of Birmingham and Its Environs* (Chicago, 1920), I, 135.

²⁷ Jane Ross, "Pleasant Hill", in "Historical Collections of Jefferson County, Alabama" (typescript, Birmingham, 1937, in Southern Collection, Birmingham Public Library), p. 52.

Adory, who came from Ireland in 1817, located a farm south of Jonesboro near *McAshan Mountain*, named for John McAshan. Tuomey mentions McAdory's mill, but the name *McAdory* located on present maps derived from his son, Professor Isaac Wellington McAdory, who after the Civil War combined the Bucksville and Old Salem Academy student bodies with his own in the log school house at Pleasant Hill.²⁸ Near Pleasant Hill is *Sparks Gap*, named for Thomas Sparks whose farm was located there.²⁹

Other immigrants stopped in the valley north of the settlements at Jonesboro and Elyton. Following the route of the Indian "who never climbed a hill if he could go around it," they used the many gaps and fords northeast of Birmingham to enter the valley. *Tarrant's Gap*, named for James T. Tarrant, a Revolutionary War soldier who moved to *'Possum Valley* in 1818, and *McComb's Ford*, named for David McComb, were both on the ancient Indian trail running from Talladega. In the same vicinity were *Morrow Gap*, named for the first Hugh Morrow, who had a plantation three miles southwest of Trussville, and *Weems Gap*, near Irondale, which bears the name of an eminent deer-hunter, William Weems.³⁰ Nearby are *O'Bar Gap*, named for Daniel O'Bar, a Cahaba Valley farmer who volunteered in 1836 to a call for troops to protect Alabama against marauding Indians,³¹ and *Sadler's Gap*, named for Reverend Anderson Sadler.³²

Along the old Georgia Road, in the eastern section of the county, a number of communities sprang up, settled by Tennesseans and South Carolinians. Here several years after the founding of Old Jonesboro, the second colony in the county

²⁸ Information supplied by Mrs. Richard M. McAdory, McCalla, Alabama, October 25, 1951.

²⁹ Thomas M. Owen, "Jefferson County Soldiers" in "Historical Collections," p. 316.

³⁰ Duffee, *op. cit.*, II, 36, 55, 96, 112.

³¹ Owen, "Jefferson County Soldiers," in "Historical Collections," p. 315.

³² Florence Hawkins Wood Moss, *Building Birmingham and Jefferson County* (Birmingham, 1947), p. 73.

was started by Edmond Wood, who came in 1824 with his father, Obadiah, and a large family. The first post office of the colony was called *Rockville* (1832), probably because of the frequent occurrence of limestone outcroppings. When the Alabama Great Southern Railroad was completed (1870), Rockville became *Wood Station*, in honor of the successive generations of Woods who had lived there. In 1886, it was officially named *Woodlawn*, for the home of Obadiah Washington Wood, son of Edmond.³³ In the same vicinity, George James Roebuck, one of two brothers from South Carolina, settled at a big spring. George James married Ann, the daughter of Williamson Hawkins, who gave them a large tract of land there covering what is now known as *Roebuck Springs*.³⁴ Located at an intersection point on the Elyton Road, the Huntsville Road, and the Blount Springs Road, the Roebuck home soon became a popular resting place for travelers.

East of Roebuck was the *Oak Grove* community, expanding around the Methodist church. R. W. Huffman (Uncle Bobby), formerly of Roupe's Valley, had lived in a log house in Oak Grove and carried the mail on horseback to Ruhama. When a post office was established (about 1885) at Vann's Store with a grab post for mail, Uncle Bobby was appointed postmaster, and the community became *Huffman*.³⁵ Also in the Oak Grove section settled James Vann and his two sons, for whom *Vann's* was named. *Reid Spring* near Huffman was named for Robert Reid, who built a mill on Five Mile Creek in 1821.³⁶

Trussville is shown on Colton's 1853 map as *Truss*, from

³³Rosa Wood Burris, "Early Events in the Life of Woodlawn," (Typescript in Woodlawn Public Library, Birmingham), p. 1.

³⁴Information supplied by George Roebuck, Birmingham, November 1, 1951.

³⁵Information supplied by Mrs. J. T. Ferguson, Huffman, Alabama, October 24, 1951.

³⁶Duffee, *op. cit.*, II, 77; Robert Reid is listed in the unpublished 1830 census as Robert Reed.

Warren Truss, "venerable pioneer, [who] located in Cahaba's vale" in 1821 and produced eight sons to serve the community. John Praytor, who bought land in 1832, gave his name to *Praytor Mountain* near Trussville, and near there is *Franklin*, where John M. Franklin built a flour mill.³⁷

Another group of South Carolinians stopped on the Huntsville Road in Jefferson County in 1819. Among them was George L. Greene whose community on Five Mile Creek about "six or nine miles north of Birmingham . . . has since been known as the *Green* neighborhood."³⁸ Further north, *Hagood's Crossroads* and *Hagood Mountain* were named for Dr. Zachariah Hagood and his sons, who started a settlement, store, and church there.³⁹ By 1852 Hagood's Crossroads had become *Mt. Pinson*, so named by horsetraders and jockeys from Pinson, Tennessee, who camped at the Crossroads with droves of mules and horses headed for Tuscaloosa and cotton plantations farther south.⁴⁰

The springs of Jones Valley flow into many creeks running across and along the valley. On two principal creeks in the Sand Mountain area, pioneers built early mills. James Cunningham, an Irish volunteer in Jackson's troops, built a home on *Cunningham Creek*, which took its name from him.⁴¹ Cunningham ground the first corn crop in Jefferson County; David Hanby, the first wheat. Tuomey compares the two mill sites: "Cunningham Creek tumbles down among the ruins of millstone grit, immense blocks of which are strewn around, in the wildest confusion; . . . the counterpart is seen at Hanby's mill, where Turkey Creek crosses the mountain."⁴²

³⁷ *Ibid.*, II, 68, 89, 92.

³⁸ *Ibid.*, II, 190; DuBose, *op. cit.*, p. 61. The spelling varies: La Tourette's 1845 map shows "Green's Post Office," but the U.S. Geological Survey map, 1904-1905, shows "Greene."

³⁹ Duffee, *op. cit.*, I, 87.

⁴⁰ Information supplied by M. E. Johnson, former postmaster at Mt. Pinson, November 3, 1951.

⁴¹ Duffee, *op. cit.*, I, 200A.

⁴² Tuomey, *op. cit.*, p. 23.

Pioneer David Hanby, one of Jackson's blacksmiths, was the first coal operator in Jefferson County. The coal was dug out of the banks of the Warrior River, placed in flatboats, and floated with many dangers down the river to Mobile. With his far-sighted acumen, he thus germinated the coal industry long before Birmingham was conceived. Tanner's 1822 map records *Hanby*.

Another of the county's foremost enthusiasts, Bayliss E. Grace, had the vision of future industrial empires, when he took the first load of "red-dye" rock to Bibb County to be tested and hammered into bars. Grace, who came to Jonesboro in 1820 as a child, later moved to a gap in Red Mountain, thereafter known as *Grace's Gap*.⁴³ On his farm there, he discovered the iron ore which is mined on the same spot today.

By 1861, Jefferson County was well settled, a successful rural district with many small communities, a few busy but quiet villages. A network of place names had spread over the county as men had become leaders or their homes focal points. The custom of naming places for the families who settled them would no doubt have persisted unbroken had it not been for the cataclysm of the Civil War. That conflict taught the South that resources such as lay in Jefferson County must be utilized, industries must be created, and transportation facilitated. One of Jefferson County's chief contributions to the Civil War was Captain John M. Huey of Old Jonesboro. As agent for the Confederate Navy, Captain Huey handled coal and lumber supplies and successfully evacuated the ordnance wagon train at the burning of Selma.⁴⁴ *Hueytown* was named for him.

A Confederate soldier, Cape Smith, one of Smithville's native sons, was imprisoned by the United States Army at Rock Island, Illinois. Nervously upset by the annoying whistling of

⁴³ D.B.G., "Bayliss E. Grace" in DuBose, *op. cit.*, p. 66.

⁴⁴ Armes, *op. cit.*, pp. 149, 194.

a fellow prisoner, Smith was aided by a friend, Toadvine of Georgia, who challenged and pommelled the offender. Soon after Smith's return to Alabama, a post office was established at *Smithville*, and the name changed to *Toadvine* in honor of his friend.⁴⁵

Although before the Civil War there were agitation, planning, and efforts toward building railroads into the mineral territory of Jefferson County, the conflict halted all progress. When the tracks finally reached into the county, new stations needed names. The Kansas City, Memphis and Birmingham tracks went through the cornfield of William B. Adams, whose house was used for a temporary depot. Later the new station became *Adamsville*.⁴⁶ When the Louisville and Nashville Railroad bought rights through the Palmer farm, two stations were named for the family: *Palmer* and *Remlap*, which is Palmer spelled backwards. As a gesture of appreciation, the railroad gave the farmer a free roundtrip ride to Birmingham.⁴⁷ *McCalla* was named for Major R. C. McCalla, the chief engineer on the South and North Railroad⁴⁸ (later the L. & N.). *Gate City* was so named because many railroads enter and leave Birmingham through the gap there.⁴⁹ *Boyles*, the location of large train yards, was named for Bartholemew Boyle who worker as an engineer on the grading of the South and North in Jefferson County and other lines throughout Alabama.⁵⁰

Twenty-three years before Birmingham was founded, Irish-born Michael Tuomey, having been appointed state geologist by the legislature in 1848, surveyed the mineral resources of Jefferson County. From this report, as well as his second,

⁴⁵ *Birmingham News*, September 13, 1928; *Birmingham Post*, March 27, 1937.

⁴⁶ Information supplied by Miss Lula Adams, *Adamsville*, Alabama, October 21, 1951.

⁴⁷ Information supplied by C. E. Palmer, Mt. Pinson, Alabama, November 3, 1951.

⁴⁸ Armes, *op. cit.*, pp. 219-220.

⁴⁹ Cruikshank, *op. cit.*, I, 137.

⁵⁰ "Disposition of the Public Lands in Jefferson County, Alabama" (typescript, Birmingham, 1937, in Southern Collection, Birmingham Public Library), I, 396.

published eight years later, it is evident that place names descriptive of the mineral deposits of the county were used by the early settlers. Tuomey notes that on *Black Creek* "... there was a bed of coal four feet thick."⁵¹ In 1874 John T. Milner made the first large sale of coal in New Orleans from this same bed. Tuomey also notes a *Coal Creek*, which he says was called *Cane Creek* in the vicinity, and a *Blue Creek*.⁵² Such references, however, are widely scattered, and not until the Birmingham era does this type of name become frequent. Then with the advent of Birmingham, there sprang into existence such names as *Carbon*, *Coaldale*, *Coalburg*, *By-Product*, *Red Ore*, *Dolcito*, and *Dolomite*, representing a fundamentally different process of naming. The former names had slowly come into usage, handed down from person to person and finally finding their way to a map, but the later group was officially named by industrial companies which located their operations there.

The companies also honored many men and women who created the coal, iron and steel empire of North Alabama by using their names for localities. For the most part they were a hard-working and ingenious group who deserve commemoration on the maps of today. Unfortunately, in many cases the original company mine or plant has been long since closed and even though the community continues to exist, only the oldtimers know why it is so called. Such is the case with the present-day settlement of *Ware*, formerly an ore-mine, named for the pioneer iron master Horace Ware, builder of the Shelby Iron Works before the Civil War, and founder of the Alabama Consolidated Coal and Iron Company.⁵³ *Erskine* has disappeared from the map, but its twin, *Yesmar*, continues to appear in the latest lists. Both of these places were named for Erskine Ramsay, who first came to

⁵¹ Michael Tuomey, *Second Biennial Report of the Geology of Alabama* (Montgomery, 1858), p. 285.

⁵² *First Biennial Report*, p. 90.

⁵³ Armes, *op. cit.*, p. 472.

Birmingham in 1887 as superintendent of the Pratt Mines of the Tennessee Coal, Iron & Railroad Company. Shortly after the Erskine mine was opened in 1904, the L. & N. Railroad made another opening a short distance away. To avoid confusion but to show the relationship between the operations, the second opening was called Yesmar, which is Ramsay spelled backwards.⁵⁴

In 1887 Samuel Thomas of Pennsylvania bought the Hawkins plantation lands and formed the Pioneer Mining and Manufacturing Company at *Thomas*.⁵⁵ Another place name in the county deriving its origin from the Thomas family is Raimund, named by John Adams, first superintendent of the Raimund Mines, for Samuel Thomas' grandson.⁵⁶ Jesse Edwards of Bessemer purchased this mine from the Republic Steel Corporation in 1941 and leased it back to them in 1949. Since then it is operated as the *Edwards Mine* at Raimund. Robert H. Sayre of Pennsylvania, who owned mineral land in this section before the Civil War, organized the Sayre Mining and Manufacturing Company in 1903 and thereby gave his name to both the *Sayre* and *Sayreton Mines*, operated today by Republic Steel Corporation. *Johns* recalls one of the most colorful figures of the early mining industry, the Welchman, Llewellyn Johns, mining engineer in turn for DeBardeleben, Republic, and Tennessee Coal, Iron & Railroad Company. The Virginian, John Campbell *Maben*, who served as president of the Sloss-Sheffield Company in 1902, left his mark on the Warrior Coal Fields with the town named after him.⁵⁷

Three families long prominent and still active in industrial Alabama are the Woodward, Shannons and DeBardelebens. In 1883, W. H. *Woodward*, founder of the Woodward Iron

⁵⁴ Information supplied by J. A. Shook, secretary of the Alabama By-Products Company, October 15, 1951.

⁵⁵ *Armes, op. cit.*, p. 42.

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 356.

⁵⁷ *Armes, op. cit.*, pp. 292, 357, 453.

Company, gave his name to the location of the first company properties.⁵⁸ His grandson, Joseph H. Woodward II, serves today as an officer of the same company. Irish-born James Shannon, trained in the iron works of England, came as a foundryman in the 1870's to the Oxmoor furnaces. Down the road from Oxmoor, his son, John James Shannon, opened the Shannon mine in 1912, which was subsequently sold to Republic Steel and is now idle. A few houses and stores mark the site of the once prosperous *Shannon*. A grandson of the old man, John James Shannon, Jr., is superintendent of the blast furnace of the Ensley plant, Tennessee Coal, Iron & Railroad Company.

The impact of Henry Fairchild DeBardeleben on the coal and iron industry of Jefferson County, and subsequently on its nomenclature, is so great as to require special treatment. Thirty-year-old DeBardeleben entered the scene in 1872, when his foster parent and father-in-law, Daniel Pratt, attempted to rescue the dying infant Birmingham by organizing the Eureka Mining & Transportation Company, which financed blast furnaces at Oxmoor. The young DeBardeleben was made superintendent and general manager. Within a year, however, it was evident that pig iron could not be made cheap enough to warrant the continued operation of the Oxmoor furnaces. The plant closed down, and DeBardeleben returned to Prattville. He did not come back to Birmingham until 1877, when Truman H. Aldrich and James W. Sloss, who in the meantime had realized Birmingham's potential mineral wealth, sought his help in developing the newly discovered Browne coal seam. They had proved that coke, badly needed in the blast furnace operation, could be made from this coal. DeBardeleben, now a rich man as the heir of Daniel Pratt, owned controlling interest in the old Eureka Company. Realizing the tremendous value of the new seam,

⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 299.

with Aldrich and Sloss he formed the Pratt Coal & Coke Company. This name was given to the Company to honor Daniel Pratt, whose money had made it possible.⁵⁹

The town that grew up around the Pratt Company mines was called *Coketon* or *Coketown* by the miners. Gradually, however, *Pratt City* came into usage, and it is known by that name today. The Browne seam which was discovered by Billy Gould and bore his name for a short time, was also changed to the *Pratt Seam* to honor DeBardeleben's benefactor.⁶⁰ Having successfully established the Pratt Company, DeBardeleben organized the Alice Furnace Company and constructed the first furnace in the city of Birmingham. Blown in November 30, 1880, the furnace was named *Alice* for DeBardeleben's oldest daughter, for whom he also named a mine. Three years later he named another blast furnace for *Mary*, his second oldest daughter.⁶¹

In 1886 the biggest scheme of DeBardeleben's career was projected, the formation of the \$2 million DeBardeleben Coal & Iron Company. David Roberts, vice-president and general manager, gives this account of the naming of the town where the company's properties were located. "It was Mr. DeBardeleben's idea to make that particular point a steel-making center. We all cast about for a name that might suggest the steel idea. I remember we had quite a discussion in the office and DeBardeleben, who was always very happy about such things, you know, said, '*Bessemer*, call it *Bessemer*,' and we did."⁶² So it was that Sir Henry Bessemer, British inventor of a steel process bearing his name, came to be honored in Alabama.

It is to DeBardeleben's credit perhaps that his own name was not given to any of his many ventures. That remained

⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, pp. 239-242, 291.

⁶⁰ Birmingham News, August 19, 1928.

⁶¹ Armes, *op. cit.*, p. 285.

⁶² *Ibid.*, p. 334.

for his friend, Truman H. Aldrich, who, in 1881, formed the Cahaba Coal Mining Company, and to the company's land in Jefferson County he gave the name *Henry Ellen* in honor of DeBardleben and his wife, Ellen Pratt.⁶³

Ensley derived its name from a man who flashed briefly across the Birmingham scene, but who, within the period of two years, perpetrated some of the biggest deals of the business. Enoch Ensley, a millionaire Memphis cotton planter, wanted to invest money in Birmingham coal mines for the expressed purpose of "outdoing the Tennessee Company" which had not then entered Alabama. This he did by practically buying out the Pratt Coal & Iron Company. Not to be outdone, the Tennessee Company (unknown to Ensley) secured the majority stock of the Pratt Company and in 1886 put Ensley in a position where he must negotiate. The Pratt Company dissolved into the Tennessee Coal, Iron & Railroad Company, and Ensley was made first president. Immediately, he started an industrial development on the edge of the Pratt coal fields. "I'm going to build a town in these woods," he said to A. M. Shook, "that'll be like a brindle cow sucking herself, and I'm going to call that town Ensley." Shortly after the project started, however, Ensley was forced to leave Birmingham because of the illness of his wife. The Ensley Land Company was badly in debt, when in 1887 Ensley severed his connections with the Birmingham district and turned to the development of the Sheffield area. He died in 1891 without seeing his town in Jefferson County a reality. Not until 1898 was the Ensley Land Company reorganized, and the first lot sold.⁶⁴

⁶³ *Ibid.*, pp. 295-296. Four grandsons of Henry Fairchild DeBardleben hold important interests and positions in the coal industry today: Henry F. DeBardleben as chairman of Board of Directors of the DeBardleben Coal Corporation; Newton H. DeBardleben as president of the same company; Charles F. DeBardleben as president of Red Diamond Mining Company; and Prince DeBardleben as president of the Alabama Fuel and Iron Company, in process of liquidation.

⁶⁴ *Ibid.*, pp. 290-292.

Although not so actively engaged in industrial Birmingham as the aforementioned contingent, other men contributed to the development of the region with their financial support and business acumen. One of these was Percy R. Pyne of New York, who served for many years on the Board of Directors of the Woodward Iron Company, and for whom the *Pyne Ore Mine* on Red Mountain is named.⁶⁵ Here also belongs Andrew Adger of Charleston, S. C., whom David Roberts in 1886 interested in the Birmingham district. The town of *Adger* is named for him, who served as secretary and treasurer of the company which opened the original mine there.⁶⁶ Even though all coal mining stopped operation at *Overton* in 1950, the community continues to exist and bear the name of the first president of the Alabama Fuel & Iron Company, Jesse Maxwell Overton, grandson of the man who made famous the Maxwell House in Nashville. DeBardleben secured funds from Overton to develop these properties as well as *Acmar* and *Margaret* in St. Clair County.⁶⁷

Of this group of names derived from persons connected with the industrial companies, *Fairfield* is an interesting example. In 1910 the T.C.I. built a model community for its steel workers and named the town *Corey* in honor of the president of United States Steel, William Ellis Corey. Within a short time, however, Corey became involved in a divorce scandal, and the officers of the company in 1913 changed the name to *Fairfield*. Once again the president of United States Steel was honored, but this time it was the new president, James A. Farrell, whose home in Connecticut was *Fairfield*.⁶⁸

In the early days it was common practice to name mines for a feminine member of a family. In 1881 Samuel Noble

⁶⁵ Information supplied by Joseph H. Woodward, II, Birmingham, December 27, 1950.

⁶⁶ *Armes, op. cit.*, p. 334.

⁶⁷ *Alabama, The News Magazine of the Deep South*, III, 12 (January 24, 1938).

⁶⁸ *Birmingham News*, November 26, 1950.

honored his mother, Jenifer Ward Noble, by naming an iron furnace in Talladega County for her.⁶⁹ When the Jenifer Furnace Company opened a mine in Jefferson County in 1900, it was known as the *Jenifer* mine.

Howard J. Thomas, superintendent of mines for Sloss Sheffield Steel & Iron Company, was discussing with Hugh Morrow, chairman of the Board of Directors, a name for the new town which was to be opened as part of the Flattop operation. "I'll give you \$50 for a good name," he said to Mr. Morrow. "Call it *Alden* for your daughter," Morrow replied. Thomas' ten-year old daughter, Ruth Alden, was honoree at a party given by the Sloss Company when the mine opened.⁷⁰

Probably the best-known daughter in the coal trade was *Mary Lee* Boyle, whose name denotes not only a mine but a railroad and a coal seam as well. In the 1890's Bartholomew Boyle sold part of his 2,000 acres of property around Lewisburg and Newcastle for the development of coal mines. The company which organized to operate at Lewisburg took the name of the Mary Lee Coal & Railway Company to honor Boyle's daughter.⁷¹ Today the Sloss Sheffield Company operates the Mary Lee Railroad which hauls coal from Flattop to the by-product ovens at North Birmingham. The Mary Lee coal seam is of unusually high quality, and ranks second to the Pratt seam in production.⁷² David Roberts named the *Belle Sumter* mines for his wife, Belle Sumter Yates. The honor to Mrs. Roberts in this case was doubtful, as the miners thought the town was named for a disreputable woman in the community by the same name.⁷³ When Clar-

⁶⁹ Armes, *op. cit.*, p. 90.

⁷⁰ Information supplied by Howard J. Thomas, Birmingham, October 22, 1951.

⁷¹ Birmingham Post, July 15, 1938.

⁷² *Mary Lee Seam* is known by various names at different locations. The use of *Newcastle Seam* with *Mary Lee* is practically interchangeable. Other names used are *Blue Creek*, *Jagger*, *Mt. Carmel*, and *Ream*.

⁷³ Information supplied by David Roberts, Jr., Birmingham, November 28, 1950.

ence Moss discovered coal on the land which he had obtained by homesteading near Warrior, Alabama, he lacked funds to mine it. Soon, however, he interested T. M. Davidson in financing the project, and the *Mabel* Mining Company, named for Davidson's daughter, was formed. Also in the Warrior field is *Bessie*, named for John Maben's daughter.⁷⁴

Decidedly different in source from the above mentioned group is *Maxine*, a mine opened by the Pratt Consolidated Coal Company in 1907. One account states that Maxine was a popular singer of the day, and that the mine was so named "... because somebody in the organization fancied her."

Apparently belonging to the group of feminine names is the *Virginia* mine of Republic Steel at Virginia City, below Bessemer. D. A. Weaver of Virginia City, who went to work in the mine when it opened in 1902, has revealed that the mine was started by two red-headed brothers, George and E. T. Shuler. According to Weaver, "They were two of the tightest men I ever saw. They hired horses at Bessemer to ride over to the mine, and they would pick up off the ground the oats that the horses spilled from their feed bags." These brothers had recently come from Virginia City, Nevada, and, hoping they had discovered a gold mine of coal in Alabama, named their new venture after the city in the West. In spite of their frugality and hopes, they were bankrupted by the mine explosion at Virginia City in 1905.

Another group of names in Birmingham has its origin in the sister industrial towns of England. The best known of these is, of course, *Birmingham*. There is no question that it was named for the iron and steel center, Birmingham, England, deriving its name from the "Farm of Beornmund's people,"⁷⁵ but who first suggested the name is a matter of some speculation. According to Truman H. Aldrich, at the second stockholders meeting of the Elyton Land Com-

⁷⁴ Information supplied by Howard Moss, Birmingham, November 1, 1951.

⁷⁵ H. G. Stokes, *English Place-Names* (London, 1948), p. 4.

pany, January 26, 1871, “. . . there was a great discussion as to the name which should be given it. Some suggested calling it Powellton after Colonel Powell, at the head of the Elyton Land Company; others wanted to name it Milnerville or Morrisville. Mr. Josiah Morris objected very strongly to these names, and looking out of the window, said there was a distinguished citizen of an adjoining town whose name would be particularly appropriate, and to name it after Judge Mudd and call it Muddtown. As a matter of fact, nothing would have suited the place more at that particular time, and indeed for a while later. The town just missed it.” Ethel Armes says that Josiah Morris then proposed the name Birmingham; it was approved, and a clause was inserted in the by-laws to that effect.⁷⁶ Others say that James A. Powell suggested the name, and one account even gives credit to the flipping of a key. A group of the founders got together to decide on a name, and as they discussed the question, one member kept flipping a key in the air. It landed so that a fine line of engraving showed which read “Made in Birmingham, England.” This seemed so propitious that *Birmingham* was chosen.⁷⁷ Armes’ account is probably the correct one.

Also in the English tradition is the town of *Leeds*, founded in 1881 by E. M. Tutwiler and James A. Montgomery. It was envisioned as an industrial center such as its British counterpart.⁷⁸ In the heart of the Warrior Coal Fields is *Cardiff*, named for the Welsh City. Cardiff flourished in the 1880’s only to burn to the ground in 1919 and was never rebuilt, as a strike followed the fire.⁷⁹ The Tombrello Coal Company strip-mines in this ghost town today. Joseph Martin named and laid out *Wylam*, so called for Wylam on the River Tyne

⁷⁶ Armes, *op. cit.*, p. 222.

⁷⁷ *Birmingham Post*, April 9, 1940.

⁷⁸ J. B. Elliott, pioneer resident of Leeds, to Mrs. W. G. Estis, Leeds, Alabama, March 11, 1926 (in Southern Collection, Birmingham Public Library).

⁷⁹ Undated clipping from *Birmingham News* (in *ibid.*).

near Newcastle, England.⁸⁰ As early as 1873, John T. Milner organized the Newcastle Coal & Iron Company and brought his own "coal from *Newcastle*," Alabama.⁸¹

Most illustrative of the Birmingham period was the derivation of names by contraction. Derived from company titles are such names as *Acipco* from the American Cast Iron Pipe Company, *Praco* from the Pratt Consolidated Coal Company, and *Labuco* from the Lacey-Buek Iron Company. Also to this group belongs *Humoro*, a mine opened in 1925 by Sloss Sheffield Company, named for Hugh Morrow, chairman of the Board of Directors.⁸² The Eldorado Coal Company operated a mine in 1913 called Walmoore, named for Walter Moore, who organized with Enoch Ensley the Horse Creek Coal & Coke Company (Dora) and the Lady Ensley Coal, Iron & Railroad Company.⁸³

It seems incongruous to discover on a United States Geological Survey Map of 1904-1905 a mine by the name of Gitmore. In 1906 this was corrected to *Getmore*.⁸⁴ Hardly worth a name was the little T.C.I. mine on the Pratt seam from which only four miners dug coal and hauled it in wagons to the boilers of the Number 7 mine of the company. By whimsical chance it came to be known as *Penny Drift*, a far more appropriate name than the company could have conferred.⁸⁵ Pratt Consolidated Coal Company, however, did very well in naming its "prize mine" *Banner* for it had a daily capacity of 2,000 tons.⁸⁶

A few communities in Jefferson County were named by land companies. Dr. Felix I. Tarrant, president of the Na-

⁸⁰ Birmingham News, February 18, 1939.

⁸¹ Armes, *op. cit.*, p. 385.

⁸² Information supplied by Howard J. Thomas, Birmingham, October 22, 1951.

⁸³ Annual Report of Coal Mines of State of Alabama, 1913 (Birmingham, 1913), p. 58.

⁸⁴ Report of Inspector of Alabama Coal Mines, 1906 (Birmingham, 1906), p. 18.

⁸⁵ Annual Report of Coal Mines of State of Alabama, 1913 (Birmingham, 1913), p. 81.

⁸⁶ Armes, *op. cit.*, p. 494.

tional Cast Iron Pipe Company, and his associate, Charles M. Green, desiring a name for the community which had grown up around the company plant, offered a free lot in the section for the best name suggested. The contest judges decided on the entry Lemnus and sent a wire to Green, who was in Texas, informing him of their choice. He wired back, "I shall bitterly oppose the name Lemnus. It sounds too much like lemon. Why not call it Tarrant!"⁸⁷ So *Tarrant City* was named for Tennessee-born Felix I. Tarrant, who came to Birmingham as a young man and died here in 1943. He is not to be confused with the pioneer family of James T. Tarrant for whom Tarrant Gap is named.

The suburb of *Smithfield*, on the other hand, does carry the name of a pioneer resident, Dr. Joseph Riley Smith, from whose 600-acre farm the section was developed. The streets there are named for Dr. Smith's descendants.⁸⁸ In 1885 J. W. DuBose described Smithfield as "the most important suburb of Birmingham."⁸⁹ Today it is the location of a large Negro housing project.

A suburb of Cincinnati, Ohio, is responsible for the occurrence of *Avondale* on Jefferson County maps. In 1887 the promoters of the land company which planned to develop this area were visiting in Cincinnati and were taken to see a model suburb, Avondale. So pleased were they with its picturesqueness and the euphony of its name, they decided to name their town Avondale.⁹⁰

Two names belonging to the industrial period of Jefferson County but to no particular group are *Oxmoor* and *Tuxedo Junction*. The origin of the latter has its roots in the Negro steel workers of West Birmingham. In the prosperous 1920's the Negroes liked to celebrate a day's work in the steel mills

⁸⁷ Birmingham *Post*, August 1, 1939.

⁸⁸ Birmingham *News*, October 25, 1944.

⁸⁹ John W. DuBose (ed.), *Mineral Wealth of Birmingham* (Birmingham, 1885), pp. 183-184.

⁹⁰ Birmingham *News*, November 16, 1925.

by donning their fanciest clothes in the evening and going down to Tuxedo Junction, so called because the Ensley and Wylam streetcar lines crossed there. There were stores and eating places, and, most of all, dance halls. In Tuxedo Park, bands sometimes played all night. The title for the song, *Tuxedo Junction*, was suggested to the songwriter, Erskine Hawkins, by his valet, a former steel worker from Ensley.⁹¹

No name in Jefferson County is more closely linked with its growth than *Oxmoor*. The first furnace was built there in 1863 to provide iron for the Confederate arsenals. The output of ten tons a day was hauled down to Selma by the little narrow gauge locomotive, the *Willis J. Milner*. Early in 1865 Wilson's Raiders marched down Shades Valley and destroyed the furnace. At that time the site was known as *Ironton*. In 1868 a group of Montgomery men, the leader of whom was Frank Gilmer, long a champion of the "hill country," formed the Red Mountain Iron & Coal Company. The company's lawyer, Daniel Shipman Troy, renamed the site of the old furnace after his plantation home in North Carolina, *Oxmoor*, which in turn was named for the ancestral home in Ireland.⁹² According to an advertisement of the company, "Oxmoor expect to be the 'Atlanta' of a regenerated Alabama . . . and some . . . persons already look upon it as the future capital of the state."⁹³ As one rides over the old Oxmoor road today it is difficult to visualize the activity that once occurred there, for the last furnace was dismantled and moved to Ensley in 1929. Still visible, however, are the brick foundation, the water tower, and the station-shed bearing the name *Oxmoor*.

Just as Oxmoor has become only a flag stop on the Louis-

⁹¹ *Ibid.*, March 14, 1940.

⁹² Armes, *op. cit.*, p. 203.

⁹³ *Advertisement of the Mineral Lands of the Red Mountain Iron and Coal Company of Alabama* (New York, 1868), p. 14.

ville and Nashville Railroad, so the Indian and pioneer names have grown away from their origins and merely serve as necessary identification labels to the modern community. For the historian, however, place names form a pattern which reflects the various facets of the county's development. Through them one can trace the major influences of its history, its economic system, and its way of life.

Negro Colloquialisms in the Black Belt

By HAMNER COBBS

THE BLACK BELT OF ALABAMA is a relatively narrow strip of soil, rich and black where it has not leached out, that begins in the eastern part of the state and, averaging usually some thirty or forty miles in width, extends westerly across it, somewhat below the middle, at a very slight northerly tilt.¹ Reaching the edge of Alabama, it extends quickly to the north and goes far into Mississippi toward the Tennessee line. In Alabama it includes large parts of Montgomery, Dallas, Lowndes, Perry, Greene and Hale—just to mention a few counties.

The Negro of that part of the Black Belt pierced by the Warrior River is a little different from the Negro in any other part of the country, or from the white man, in regard to the manner in which his speech has evolved. His colloquialisms consist largely of those which he has inherited and those which he has improvised. All men have colloquial expressions, but it is generally agreed that colloquialism thrives best where the educational opportunities are limited and, among Negroes, in those areas where he is not too contaminated by white influence. Hence the Warrior country, scoring high on both counts, should be a fertile soil for the cultivation of the colloquial phrase.

¹ The author, who read this paper at the annual meeting of the Alabama Historical Association, Decatur, April 19, 1952, stated in an informal introduction that he is strictly an amateur linguist and that his remarks are based largely on the colloquialisms of the Negroes he knows best, those who live on or near the lower Warrior River which flows through the Alabama Black Belt from Tuscaloosa to Demopolis.

Some of the Black Belt Negroes are literate, but mostly they are thoroughly unlettered, and their vivid imaginations, together with their highly developed genius for imitation, have conspired to produce for them a rich and often baffling language. It is a rather strange experience, for example, to encounter inherited terms, such as the broad *a*, in the swamps of Alabama. With very few exceptions, this Virginia inheritance among the white people has long ago been drowned out in a sea of flat *a*'s (as in hat). Apparently, the people of the Black Belt have developed a much flatter accent than their white brethren in some other parts of the South. The Negro influence has been tremendous. A large part of the white man's business is with the Negro, and whether he be storekeeper or farmer, when he does business with the Negro, the Negro does not speak the white man's language. Rather, the white man speaks the language of the Negro—and this, continued day after day, is bound to leave its mark. While one does not expect his children to be pure in speech, any more than in manners, it is quite disconcerting to have one's young son, when company arrives, blurt out something lately imported from the swamps: "Us don't wanna do dat."

While the Negro ordinarily resorts to the flattest of *a*'s, and the white man in the Black Belt goes along with him, there are occasional throwbacks, through inheritance, to the broad *a* which are difficult to explain. For instance, not all rural Negroes say aunt or *auntie* (with the broad *a*), but a great many of them do. This is true of some in the cities. We are all familiar with the word *mah-ster*. It is quite common, too, to find that when one mentions a pasture, it is echoed from the lips of an untutored Negro as *pahsture*. While the white people have gardens, a great many of these Negroes cling to their tidewater *gyardens*.

The Negro is a fine hand at improvising, at making the language serve his own personal use. He is also good at preserving certain rather unusual phrases, some of them

awkward, which seem to have no reason for existence, except that they have been plucked out of an indefinite past. These are the expressions to which he clings when he might use phrases much simpler. Starting with the elemental subject, nourishment, one never hears a Negro from our swamp country say that he is going to town to *shop*. He never shops; he *trades*. And only on rare occasions does he refer to his purchases as groceries. They are always his *sump'n to eat*. If he happens to be working in the fields as a sharecropper, he may get his *rations* in town, but when he buys the food himself, he always buys his "sump'n to eat." If a thief breaks into his house and ransacks his cupboard, he relates it not by saying that the thief made away with all his food, but that he "tuck all my sump'n to eat."

This "sump'n to eat" business reminds the writer of a chat he once had with Chaney, a Negro woman. In the country one day, he stopped by old Mose's house to see him. That was at noon, and Chaney was sitting on the front gallery. (We never have *porches* down our way; they are always *galleries*.) Some five or six hours later, along about first dusk, he went back by Mose's house, and there was Chaney, still sitting on the front gallery. "Chaney, don't you ever go home?" he asked. "Well," she replied, "us cullud folks is different from you white folks. When white folks goes to somebody's house for dinner, dey eats and goes home—but when cullud folks goes to somebody's house for dinner, dey sets around till dey cooks again!"

When one of our swamp Negroes retires for the night, he doesn't go to *bed* and he doesn't go to *sleep*. These are very praiseworthy things, but he has little to do with either. He *lays* down—and he *rests*. If for some reason, he is not feeling too well, or it has been one of those hot cotton-growing nights when the mosquitoes are bad, he will tell you the next morning that he "didn't lay down all night" and he "didn't get no rest all night." Neither bed nor sleep enters into the pic-

ture. When he does go to bed, it is something which illness and the doctor have dictated. But he never seems to sleep. He may *nod* or he may *nap*—but, mostly, he *jes' rests*.

Such vulgar and inflationary terms as *installment* or *credit buying* are never used by Black Belt Negroes. When they buy something, they buy it, and pay cash for it. When the Negro acquires consumable goods, such as *sump'n to wear* or *sump'n to eat*, he gets them *on the advance*. But when he has made credit arrangements on such other goods as a second-hand car, he has "*tuck it up*." The reasonable assumption is that what he has tuck up, he can lay down.

A highly expressive phrase, common in the Black Belt, may baffle the untutored. One day, when the writer had gone to the country rather early, a farm Negro knocked on his back door in town and confronted his wife with this: "Mister Hampton (as he calls me) done sont you a answer." Thoroughly confused, my wife was late realizing that this Negro had been sent to town with a message to her that required a reply. If it had been a straight message, he would have said that we had "*sont her a message*." But it wasn't a straight message—it was an "answer" which we had "sont," and he needed the reply without delay.

Then there are those words and phrases which have been reshaped in sound. The business of taking a word or phrase and converting it into another word or phrase, more familiar but utterly foreign in relation to the original, is a habit which all people seem to have. We might remind ourselves of what the English did to Eleanor of Castile, by converting her into the Elephant and Castle—and we might come on down through the years with scores of similar illustrations. It is well to stress the point that the Black Belt Negro, by reason of his extremely informal education and vivid imagination, is a master of this. For instance, Crit, who presides over the kitchen at our camp on the Warrior River, has converted Worcester or Worcestershire sauce into *Rooster Sauce*

—and with logic. “Crit,” we inquired one day, “how in the world did people ever think about calling that sauce ‘Rooster Sauce’.” “I reckon,” she replied, “they calls it Rooster Sauce ‘cause everything you puts it in stands up and crows.”

Judge Robert Knox Greene of Hale County, himself an observer of the Black Belt Negro for more than forty years, points out that disc harrow is never anything but a *dish harr*. The *dish* comes not only from the sound of the word, but from the shape of the discs themselves, and the *harr* must trace its ancestry back to the Virginia broad *a*. He also points out that the fertilizer distributor is usually a *pudderlize stripper*—and returning to *harrow*, the section harrow found on every farm is not a section harrow—it’s a *suction harr*.

Not long after coming into the Black Belt, but prior to World War I, Judge Greene was far behind with his cotton chopping. Frantically trying to get his crop out of the grass, he was in the fields himself a good part of the time, urging his hands not to loaf on the job and not to stop any longer than necessary. On this particular morning he had given them a lecture only a few minutes earlier, when one of the choppers roused a rabbit off a ditch bank and, in spite of the judge’s admonition, the whole crowd took out in full cry, brandishing their hoes. It was eight or ten minutes before they straggled back to work and Judge Greene chided them, pointing out that they did not have a chance at catching the rabbit. “That’s right, boss,” said the head hoe-hand, mopping his brow, “but you just don’t know how much *suction* there is in a rabbit!”

The automobile seems to be here to stay and with it, an entirely new vocabulary has arisen, affording a number of new terms. Nothing, however, seems quite so descriptive as the Black Belter’s word for the *accelerator*. With him, it’s the *celebrator*. It is thus easy to see how that very destructive firearm, the automatic shotgun, has got a far better name: an

awfulmatic. When a distinguished lawyer or official visits us, he is, of course, the "*guvvermunt*."

Old Monk, down on the river, gets worried every September as the summer fades into the fall about one of those "*east-knocker*" storms.

Just before World War II, the Commodity Credit Corporation distributed foodstuffs to a great many needy people. These were largely surplus foods, and this was the era which produced so many stories about the backwoods people who cooked those free grapefruit all day without ever getting them tender. Everywhere else, these goods were known as "*commodity goods*," but down our way, they were "*Modesty Goods*," and the place from which they came was the "*Modesty House*."

In another category there are purely picturesque words and phrases which the Black Belt Negro, using some of his own language, apparently has "*just thunk up*." For instance, old man Abe Lewis, a friend and fishing companion, now past eighty, when he wants to hold a little private business conference with us, announces that he wants to see us "*previous*." He lives on our place and he always flatters the owner by referring to him, especially in front of visitors, as the "*suprietor*." This same old colored gentleman was at the camp-house a few years ago, when a kinsman of ours decided at a rather late hour to spend the night. The wife of the kinsman had just boiled a pound of shrimp and, inasmuch as he was so fond of them, she suggested that he take them along for his supper. (With our Black Belt Negro, incidentally, there is no such thing as a shrimp. It's a *swimp*—and the same goes for the oyster—it's always an *oysker*.) The kinsman took his wife's suggestion and carried along the shrimp together with some kind of sauce. As he sat before the log fire that night, peeling the shrimp and eating them, he suggested that Abe might like to try a few "*swimp*." Yes sir, he would. A few moments later there was a sputtering

back in the shadows of the room, where the old man stood. When more shrimp was proffered, there was an indignant refusal. No sir, no more of them things. After a few minutes the bowl began to get low, and about that time Abe stepped up and said, "Boss, I'se changed my mind. I believes I wants some more of them swimps." "What's happened?" he was asked. "You turned them down only a few minutes ago." "Well, boss," he said, "I just now sees you got to *de-foot 'em*."

This is the same old man—and the story is offered not so much to illustrate the language as to illustrate the habits of our people—who was at the camp-house on another occasion. This time the kinsman had brought along a head of lettuce with a bottle of French dressing, and he was pouring the dressing lustily over the lettuce when Abe, in horror, exclaimed: "Good lawd, boss, you ain't going to eat them turnip greens raw, is you?"

A couple of summers ago we stopped by Fred's house, high on Millwood Bluff. In his yard he had a rather mangy hound dog tied with baling wire to a big oak tree. "Fred, why in the world have you got this dog tied up in this hot weather?" "Well, boss," he said with a baleful eye on that dog, "sometimes *I* gets hongry for a mess of eggs."

Not all Black Belt Negroes follow this procedure, but a lot of them, when they go to the county courthouse for a hunting or a marriage license, ask for a pair of hunting licenses or a pair of marriage licenses. And speaking of marriage, a young Negro once got tangled up with a girl he somehow preferred not to marry, and he worried about it considerably. After about a week, he said he had straightened out everything. Asked how he got out of that marriage in such a hurry, he said it wasn't much trouble: he never did buy her a *court-house license*. He just bought a *commissary license*. A commissary license, he explained, is a new dress and a pair of shoes.

Our Black Belt Negroes are constantly going *up the road*.

For most people, when a person has gone up the road, he has just stepped out or driven away for a brief little trip, with his return expected shortly. But when a Black Belt Negro goes up the road, he goes to Birmingham, Cleveland or Detroit. He has gone on a real trip. A trip to Tuscaloosa is not dignified by this term. He has got to go north of Holt to go "up the road."

Down our way a funeral and a burying are two entirely different rites which, of course, they are—and the *pall buryers*, not bearers, are men of permanent position in the church who not only *tote* the casket, but dig the grave as well. "The star," of course, pays for these expenses—and only the most improvident fail to pay their dues in the star, or burial society. When an undertaker handles the details, he *funeralizes* the person in question.

While on this rather gloomy subject, there are two ways of getting "*kilt*" in the Black Belt. You can get "*kilt*" for good, or you can get "*kilt*" for just a little while. When you get "*kilt*" for just a little while—perhaps by a two-by-four which has been bounced off the head—you have been merely knocked unconscious. The Negro doesn't like such a cumbersome term as "knocked unconscious." He prefers to get *kilt*, if only for a little while.

Breakfast, with our people, is not necessarily the morning meal. The Black Belt Negro is a purist in some things, and when he breaks his fast, he breakfasts. If his first meal of the day is at noon, or at six o'clock in the evening, it is still his *breakfast*.

A tooth and a goose are rare—but *teefies* and *geeses* are everywhere. No one ever addresses an envelope; he always "*backs*" it. Independence Day, or the Fourth of July, is virtually unknown, but the *Fo'th Day*, without any reference to month, is the great holiday of the year, which never went into eclipse among the Negroes, as it did the whites, after the War Between the States.

In common with a great many other rural people, we have *widow women* and *dry drouths*, but we go these other sections one better; we not only have dry drouths, we have *wet drouths* as well.

When you buy a *dress pattern* along the Warrior, you dare not think you are getting by with the purchase of one of those tissue paper affairs which the ladies sew by; you're buying the cloth for the dress itself.

The foreign influence on our language is not great, but occasionally it exerts itself. For instance, Mose Harris served in France during the first World War, and he picked up a nice smattering of French which he has never forgotten, although his pronunciation is pretty well anglicized. When the ninth member of his family came along, he turned to France for an appropriate name, *Beaucoup*.

The Black Belt is basically a land of cotton and catfish, with the Negro wedded to cotton as a young couple in the spring are wedded to their dreams of tomorrow. And the catfish is supreme along about this time of the year when the river, after an upstream freshet, gets her *mouth all poked out*. The Negro himself sometimes gets his mouth poked out, when he studies the intrusion of cattle on his domain of cotton—but we have a good many Negroes themselves, with cattle of their own, who succumb happily to that pleasant attack, known as *the money chill* or *greenback fever*, which comes on when they sell that yearling steer for \$160 on the Eutaw market.

Be assured that our Black Belt Negroes are not unaware of that thing which is generally described as social progress. They are entirely familiar with the welfare lady, and they know the make and color of her automobile—although some of them, past sixty-five, have got the idea that they should not let the welfare lady know about that two-acre patch of cotton they are working over there behind the pines. They know the color of that envelope which comes on the first

of the month. The younger ones, back on the farm, know when to go to Tuscaloosa to collect their *pennies*—which some of their more formal city brethren refer to as unemployment compensation.

They are entirely aware of what they call *social percuity*—but it seems that, in their own quiet way, they have built a social “percuity” which far excels anything which others have tried to build for them. The basis of it is a love of the land, some of which they own in fee simple. Giving it strength is their affection for *chillun*—all chillun—which seems to exceed the affection of almost any other people for their young. Even when there is hardly dust of meal in the barrel, they regard a multitude of chillun under the rooftop as never a burden, but always a blessing, magnified by numbers. They have little fear of a breadless tomorrow, and this lack of fear together with an eagerness to help the old and the sick, even when their means to help are strained, seems to have given them a sense of social “percuity” which others might envy. They think in terms foreign to most of us, and their language is often strange, but we sometimes suspect that in both life and language we could learn a lot from them.

The Fifth Annual Meeting of the Alabama Historical Association

By LEON F. SENSABAUGH

THE FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING of the Alabama Historical Association took place at Decatur, Alabama on April 18 and 19, 1952. The Morgan County Historical Association, the Decatur Board of Education, and the Decatur Chamber of Commerce served as joint hosts.

The opening session was held Friday evening in the auditorium of the Decatur High School. President John M. Galalee of the University of Alabama presided. Dr. F. L. Chenault, president of the Decatur Board of Education, welcomed the guests, and Rucker Agee, president of the Association, responded to the greeting. Following appropriate selections by the Decatur High School Glee Club, James A. Simpson of Birmingham introduced the speaker of the evening, Robert S. Henry, president of the Association of American Railroads.

Mr. Henry opened his remarks by pointing out that the Civil War was the first war in which two armies had adequate railroad transportation, and this fact strongly determined the strategy and logistics of the war. He described the railroads of the Confederacy and pointed out that the military engagements were fought up and down these lines for their control. Northern armies followed their lines into the South and then gained control of the Southern lines. Large armies could be moved quickly to distant points, and the speaker cited the moving of Bragg's army in a swing through the South and then into Kentucky.

A factor in the South's loss was the deterioration of the

roads through loss of manpower and through the capture and cutting of the various lines by the Yankees. The speaker wondered what would have happened if the Confederacy had possessed better transportation.

Following the address, James F. Sulzby of Birmingham announced that Mrs. G. W. Johnson of Brownsville, Texas was presenting a document entitled "Programme for the Inauguration of the President and the Vice-President of the Confederate States" to the State of Alabama. Mrs. Johnson was recognized as was Mrs. Marie Bankhead Owen, of the State Department of Archives and History.

Hill Ferguson, chairman of the Historical Marker Committee of the Association, then dedicated one of the standard markers of the society to the first railroad west of the Allegheny mountains—the Tuscumbia, Courtland & Decatur Railroad. The marker will be placed at the railroad tracks on state highway 20, west of Decatur.

The Association reconvened the following morning at 10 o'clock with President Rucker Agee presiding. He announced the appointment of the committees for the session and called for the reports from the several Association officers. Maud McLure Kelly, treasurer of the Association, reported that on April 1, 1951 there was a balance of \$4,805.00. During the year the Association disbursed the sum of \$3,164.27, leaving a balance of \$1,640.73 at the end of the fiscal year. Secretary James F. Sulzby, Jr. reported that when the Association met in Auburn in 1951 there were 572 members, while at the close of the Association year, March 31, 1952, there were 1,104 members. He paid especial tribute to Allen Rushton of Birmingham, chairman of the Membership Committee. W. Stanley Hoole, editor of *The Alabama Review*, reported a steady increase in the circulation of the quarterly and stated that the *Review* is now being subscribed for in thirty-two states and in London, Eng-

land and Helsinki, Finland. Of the April 1952 issue, he continued, 1,294 copies were mailed.

After the adjournment of the general session, there were three sessions for the presentation of papers. A summary of these sessions is as follows:

Dean F. E. Lund, of Florence State Teachers College, presided at Session A. The first paper of this meeting was given by Dr. William Pratt Dale of Howard College, Birmingham. His subject, "A Connecticut Yankee in Antebellum Alabama," dealt with Henry Watson, Jr., from New England. Watson landed at Mobile, Alabama in 1830 and from there went to Erie, Alabama. The ostensible reason for his coming to Alabama was to teach. He later returned to New England to study law, and after his legal education he came back again to Alabama. He settled at Greensboro. His profession was that of a lawyer, but he engaged on the side in real estate ventures. He had arrived in Alabama opposed to slavery, but he changed his mind once he possessed both land and slaves. By 1859 he owned much land and over 100 slaves. His property was valued at more than \$300,000. Watson became a great believer in the institution of slavery. At the start of the Civil War, Watson returned to the North, but his former slave connections led to his ostracism, and he went to France, where he remained during the war. He never returned to the South.

The second paper was given by Walter M. Jackson, superintendent of schools of Decatur. His topic, "William R. King in Public Life," stressed certain phases of the life of the famous Alabamian. While much has already been written about King, the speaker believed that the emphasis of certain aspects of King's career justified further treatment. The second point dealt with the relationship of King, Governor Gayle of Alabama, and President Andrew Jackson. King served as a sort of liaison man between the two executives during the controversy over Creek lands. At the

time King was a United States senator. Eventually, King took the side of President Jackson, a decision which led to a split between King and the Alabama governor. The third part of the paper was an account of the oath of office for the vice-presidency which King took while he was in Cuba.

Frank M. Dixon presided at Session B. The first paper presented a colorful and humorous account of "Negro Colloquialisms in the Black Belt" as observed in the Lower Warrior River country over the years by the Greensboro *Watchman's* editor, Hamner Cobbs. There are in certain words of the Negro some inherited pronunciations found in the "broad *a*" of such words as *master* and *auntie* which had been carried from the Tidewater. Other words are modified in sound and become *rooster sauce* rather than Worcester-shire sauce, *celebrator* rather than accelerator. Mr. Cobbs' fishing companion, Ole man Abe, stocked the editor's supply of stories with one about *swimp* (shrimp) which he was forced to eat and found palatable only after he realized he must *de-foot 'em*. Although foreign influence is negligible in these colloquialisms, one veteran of World War I, hunting for a name for the ninth child in his family, proudly decided on *Beaucoup*. The racial characteristic of love of children is strong in the locality, and, regardless of a breadless tomorrow, children are underfoot everywhere. The adults, therefore, take advantage of *social pecuity* and welcome the assistance of the "welfare lady."

The second paper heard at this session was entitled "Madame Octavia Walton LeVert: the South's most famous belle," presented by Dean Caldwell Delaney, University Military School, Mobile. A careful, meticulous preparation for international social prominence had dominated Octavia Walton's childhood from birth in 1810 until her debut at age twenty-three. The stress in family fortunes which took the Waltons to Pensacola brought Octavia into contact with

Latin temperaments and accentuated her natural interest in people and her vitality and charm.

Settling in Mobile after her marriage, Madame LeVert gathered a cosmopolitan group about her to establish the first American salon. To most of us today an \$8,000 ball dress would be a fabulous thing, and we can surmise that it must have left British society of 1848 gasping when worn by its gifted mistress as she was presented to Queen Victoria.

In 1857, following extensive travels, Madame LeVert published her *Souvenirs of Travel*, which went through four editions and received the personal tributes of two prominent literary figures of the day, Washington Irving and Longfellow. Many other eminent men claimed her a friend, among them Edwin Booth, Henry Clay, General Beauregard, and Alexander H. Stephens. During the war, her fortunes fell with those of her associates. She was forced to close her house in Mobile and retire to Augusta, where she died in 1877 in relative obscurity.

Dr. Rhoda C. Ellison, Huntingdon College, presided at Session C. The first paper was read by Dr. Allen J. Going, of the Department of History, University of Alabama. Dr. Going departed in part from the announced subject, "The Alabama Republican Party in the Nineteenth Century," and limited his remarks largely to the political situation in Alabama in 1895-1896. Although practically every post-Reconstruction election in Alabama saw the Democratic party threatened by alliances between some of its own numbers and opposition parties, the most serious situation occurred in 1895. Depressed economic conditions, the conservative attitude of the national administration, and dubious election methods in the state all combined to enhance appeals made by Populists. One group in the Alabama Democratic party led by Joseph F. Johnston of Birmingham thought it best to come out in opposition to the Cleveland administration and in favor of free silver. When these Silverites gained

control of the state Democratic executive committee and nominated Johnston governor, the Populists and Republicans divided on the question of fusion, but ultimately reached agreement on a slate, nominating Albert T. Goodwyn, Populist, for governor and five Populists and two Republicans for other state offices. Johnston and the Democrats won by a sizeable majority, drawing more strength from the Populists than the latter gained from cooperating with Republicans. "Thus during the critical months of 1895-1896 Alabama Democrats succeeded in maintaining party unity and supremacy in the face of serious threat. More than twenty years earlier they had forged a unified white man's party by compromising with conservatives both at home and in the East. This time, in spite of opposition from powerful Montgomery politicians, they preserved that unity by compromising with dissatisfied agrarians and Western progressives."

The second and final paper was read by Dr. Jack E. Kendrick of Alabama Polytechnic Institute. His topic, "An Appraisal of the Leading Alabama Congressmen in the First Wilson Administration," was largely restricted to a discussion of Oscar Underwood and Henry D. Clayton. Dr. Kendrick's point of departure was really the election of 1910, when the national House of Representatives fell into the hands of the Democrats. When the House was reorganized in 1911, the leadership fell to Oscar Underwood and Champ Clark. The latter became the Speaker and Underwood the chairman of the powerful Ways and Means Committee.

When the Democrats won control of the entire national government in 1913, the Democrats from Alabama were in a position to assume important positions. Underwood made his greatest contribution to the tariff which bears his name, while Clayton, as chairman of the Judiciary Committee, stayed in the House at the request of President Wilson to contribute his part to the anti-trust legislation.

Representatives Hobson and Burnett and Senator John

Bankhead also contributed their part to the role which Alabama congressmen played, but the most distinguished parts were played by Underwood and Clayton, in the opinion of the speaker.

The final session of the Association occurred Saturday noon with the luncheon meeting. William H. Brantley of Birmingham, substituting for Earl M. McGowin, presented Dr. Perry D. James of Athens College, who gave the invocation. Brantley also introduced President Rucker Agee, whose presidential address, "Marking Historic Sites in Alabama," was next read.

President Agee began by emphasizing the love that one has for his section of the nation and the natural desire to promote some sort of recognition of the history of his state. There are several ways of recognizing the historical incidents. One way is to record the history through scholarly research, but this is a limited manner, for the bulk of the people do not come in contact with such writings. A second way is to preserve and restore the historic sites of the state, while the third way is to erect appropriate markers. This method is the best one to attract the greater number of people and especially to attract the attention of local groups for the development of their local pride. The Alabama Historical Association is dedicated to the job of promoting the study and recognition of the rich history of Alabama, especially by the erection of markers after careful study has been made.

Although Alabama has already taken some steps in this direction, much remains to be done, and the Alabama Historical Association should shoulder the task rather than leave the job to the state. The Association is the only agency that can maintain high standards of selection and avoid the deterioration that might come with political control. It must do the work, a work that is long overdue. The Association now has a well organized plan, both for the nature of the

markers and the selection of the sites, and it plans to go forward with its program.

Following the presidential address, President Agee heard the reports of the several committees. Through the Resolutions Committee, appropriate tribute was paid to the various local organizations that had made the meeting such a success. Dr. Gordon Chappell, reporting for this committee, recommended Mobile as the place for the 1953 meeting, and the report was adopted.

The Nominations Committee gave the following report:

President—President Ralph B. Draughon, of Auburn.

Vice President—William H. Brantley, of Birmingham.

Secretary—James F. Sulzby, Jr., of Birmingham.

Treasurer—Maud McLure Kelly, of Montgomery.

The recommendations were unanimously approved.

After the adjournment of the luncheon meeting, the members and guests made an extended visit of the historic homes in the vicinity of Decatur. This ended the fifth annual meeting of the Alabama Historical Association.

Annual Report of the Treasurer

By MAUD McLURE KELLY

Balance, April 1, 1951.....\$ 959.26

Receipts, April 1, 1951-March 31, 1952:

Registrations, fifth annual meeting,

Decatur\$ 224.00

Dues, current and delinquent..... 3,273.00

Dues, in advance, for 1952-3..... 30.00

Gifts 306.99

Sale of *Review* and items later refunded... 5.75

Checks re-deposited 6.00

Total Receipts.....\$3,845.74

Total Balance and Receipts.....\$4,805.00

Disbursements, April 1, 1951-March 31, 1952:

Checks charged back by bank.....\$ 6.00

Refunds 4.75

Extra copy of *Review*..... 1.00

University of Alabama Press..... 1,656.00

Honorarium, editor of the *Review*..... 400.00

Expense of operating the Association,

Printing, postage, etc. 1,096.52

Total Disbursements\$3,164.27

Balance, April 1, 1952.....\$1,640.73

HISTORIC MARKER FUND

Receipts, all from gifts.....\$ 485.00

Disbursement, to General Fund..... 3.00

Balance, April 1, 1952.....\$ 482.00

Notes and Documents

ELEVEN LETTERS OF RAPHAEL SEMMES, 1867-1868

Edited by ELISABETH JOAN DOYLE

Raphael Semmes is a familiar figure in the pages of Southern history. Born in Maryland in 1809, he was orphaned when a boy and was taken to live with his uncle and namesake, Raphael Semmes of Georgetown, D. C. The Semmes home, one of the best-known in the District, was crowded with young cousins and eminent Southern visitors. To the salons held there came many of the men who were to further the cause of secession in later years. In this atmosphere, Raphael Semmes spent his earliest years.

Through the good offices of another uncle, Benedict Semmes, he obtained an appointment as midshipman in the United States Navy when he was fifteen, and went to sea. Though he waited some time after completing his midshipman's course for a vacancy in the officer ranks, he finally was commissioned a passed midshipman—that day's equivalent of the present-day rank of ensign. He rose steadily in the service from that time forward, becoming a specialist in the field of coastal survey and marine geography. He was an ardent admirer and close friend of the distinguished oceanographer Matthew Maury, also a naval officer and later a prominent Confederate. In his spare time Semmes studied Law.

In 1860, Raphael Semmes—then a captain in the United States Navy—was chief of the Lighthouse Bureau and was living quietly with his family in Washington. His strongly pro-Southern sentiments were well-known, however, and he was offered a commission in the Confederate States Navy even before the inauguration of Jefferson Davis.

As Captain of the raiders *Sumter* and *Alabama*, Semmes

did incalculable damage to Federal shipping in all parts of the world. During the nearly three years that he served as a raider captain, he sank or captured so many Union ships that he was named a pirate by Gideon Welles, Lincoln's secretary of the navy.

Though his ship, the C.S.S. *Alabama*, was sunk by the U.S.S. *Kearsarge* in a stirring battle off Cherbourg in 1864, Semmes' wartime career did not end here. On his return to the Confederacy, he was placed in command of the James River Squadron and, when Confederate leaders ordered these vessels destroyed, was commissioned a brigadier general in the army. As such, he retreated from Richmond and so signed his parole on May 1, 1865, after he had surrendered with General Joseph E. Johnston at Greenville, S. C.

On his return to his home in Mobile, Semmes knew only a brief period of peace before he was arrested by Federal officers and carried off to prison in Washington. Here, his impassioned appeals to President Johnson and others may have been responsible for the dropping of piracy charges against him and for his release after three months.

Despite this apparent acquittal, Semmes was not allowed to pick up the threads of his life in peace. United States officials who occupied the South made direct attempts to keep him from holding a position and supporting his family. The offer by David F. Boyd, youthful president of the Louisiana State Seminary of Learning and Military Academy, of a teaching position was accepted, and Semmes taught there during the month of January, 1867. At this point he was offered the editorship of the Memphis *Morning Bulletin* at a considerably larger salary than he was receiving at the Seminary. Though it meant he had to make an investment, Semmes felt that Memphis offered more advantages to his family—which included two daughters of marriageable age—and he accepted the new position.

However, this opportunity was to be short-lived as Ten-

nessee Radicals became aware of the identity of the new editor. Driven from Memphis, Semmes returned to his home in Mobile, relying on funds he received from speaking engagements, the publication of his *Memoirs*, and for his services as a lawyer to support his family. He died at Point Clear, Alabama on August 30, 1877.

The series of letters printed here are part of his correspondence with President Boyd before and after the period he spent at the Louisiana Military Academy. The originals of the letters are deposited in the Department of Archives, Louisiana State University.

Mobile, Ala*
Nov. 16th, 1866.

Sir

I have received your letter of the 1st inst: dated at Alexandria, with postscript of 15th inst: from New Orleans. I feel honored by the appointment which has been tendered me, by the Executive Committee,¹ in whose behalf you write, of the Professorship of Naval Philosophy, and English Literature in the Military Academy of Louisiana.² I desire a short time to consider my acceptance of this appointment. I have an engagement to lecture in Galveston some two weeks hence, which would prevent me from repairing to Alexandria, before that time. The Christmas holidays will intervene soon afterwards, and thus I should not be able, very well, to get to work before the 1st of January next. Would it be asking too much of the Committee, to grant me until that time to give my final answer? If I accept, I will present myself, in person, on the 1st of January, and enter at once upon my duties.

I am very respectfully
Yur obt servt.
R. Semmes

D. F. Boyd Esq³
Superintendent

¹ The Executive Committee consisted of the faculty and three members of the Board of Supervisors. At the time these letters were written, General G. Mason Graham was serving as vice-president of the Board of Supervisors and chairman of the Executive Committee (Walter L. Fleming, *Louisiana State University*, Baton Rouge, 1936, pp. 39, 129).

² Semmes no doubt meant the official title, "Louisiana State Seminary of Learning and Military Academy," which the institution bore 1859-1870 (see *ibid.*, p. 38).

³ David French Boyd was born at Wytheville, Virginia in 1834. Educated in the

Endorsement on back of letter as follows:

Communication of Admiral Semmes

L^a State Semy:

Nov—21st, 1866

Reply Ref^d to the B^d of Sprs wit the remark that I assumed the responsibility of saying that the Board of Sprs. w^d grant Admiral Semmes permission to remain away till 1st January next, but that his acceptance was requested *now*, if believed to be compatible with his personal interests, for the benefit of the school.

Respy

D. F. Boyd

Sup't

Mobile, Al^a

Dear Sir:

Nov. 19, 1866.

I did not receive your telegram of Saturday (17th) until this morning (Monday); too late to reply by telegraph, as you informed me in your letter, that you would leave New Orleans at 8 o'clock on Saturday evening, on your return to Alexandria. I accept the chair tendered me, and will be in Alexandria in time enter upon the discharge of my duties, on the 1st of January next.

I am very respectfully

R. Semmes

D. F. Boyd Esq

Alexandria

Mobile, Al^a

My dear Sir.

Nov. 21st 1866.

I have received your letter of the 17th inst. I had previously writ-

Pike Powers Classical School, Staunton, and at the University of Virginia, he taught for a time in Homer and Rocky Mount, Louisiana before his election as professor of Ancient Languages and Literature at the new Louisiana State Seminary of Learning which opened its doors in 1860. He taught at the Seminary in Pineville for a year under the presidency of William T. Sherman before the two resigned to enlist in opposing armies. Boyd entered the army as a private in Company B, 9th Louisiana Infantry, and rose to the rank of major by 1862. In 1863 he constructed Fort DeRussy on the Red River and in the following year was captured by the "Jayhawkers," a guerilla Unionist band. Imprisoned first at Natchez and later at New Orleans, he was exchanged through the good offices of General Sherman in July, 1864. He served the remainder of the war with General Kirby Smith, surrendering at New Orleans in 1865. In the same year, he was elected superintendent of the Louisiana State Seminary. He served in this capacity, and later as president of Louisiana State University (which developed from the Seminary) until his death in 1899. See *Dictionary of American Biography* (New York, 1928-1937), II, 525-526 (hereinafter referred to as *DAB*).

ten to you in reply to your telegram of the same date, directing my letter to you at Alexandria. I now write to the care of Mr. Swarbrick,⁴ as you request.

I accept the Chair tendered to me by the Executive Committee, and will repair to Alexandria, in time to enter upon my duties, on the 1st of January next.

I am very respectfully

Yrs. &c

R. Semmes

D. F. Boyd Esq

Supt. &c

Memphis, Tenn.

March 2nd 1867

My dear Colonel.⁵

I have been able to make arrangements, to my satisfaction, with the Bulletin Publishing Company,⁶ by which I have become Editor, and stockholder in the concern. This will, of course, prevent my return to the Seminary. I assure you, I accept my new position with some misgiving, and sever my connection with you, with many regrets. With regard to my furniture, if any gentleman will give me its cost in New Orleans, I should prefer to dispose of it in this way. The enclosed bill exhibits the prices. If no one wishes to purchase it, will you do me the favor to have it boxed for me, and shipped to me here, by way of the mouth of the Red River. It can be transferred to the wharf boat there, and reshipped on board a Mississippi steamer. The cost of packing, Red River freight &c, can be collected from the Mississippi boat. Remember me very kindly to your good lady, and the very clever gentlemen with [whom] I had so agreeable, though so short a connection.

I am yours

very truly

R. Semmes.

⁴ Swarbrick and Company was a New Orleans grocery firm, located on Camp Street. James Kenton, one of the Seminary's benefactors, was a member of this firm (Fleming, *op. cit.*, p. 265).

⁵ Though Boyd left the Confederate army a major, he was advanced in rank when he became superintendent of the Seminary for the legislature had provided, in the act establishing it, that the superintendent should be a colonel (*ibid.*, p. 38).

⁶ The *Memphis Morning Bulletin* was a conservative Whig paper which had supported Bell and Everett in the presidential election of 1860. It was published "for several years" after the war by P. B. Wills and J. B. Bingham. It was succeeded by the short-lived *Memphis Sun*. See *History of Tennessee with Sketches of Shelby County* (Nashville, 1887), p. 905.

P. S. When you send out your next advertisements, send them to us. Memphis would be an excellent place to advertise in, and we shall not fail to present you properly to the public.

Consign the furniture to "Larry Harmstead, & Co" Memphis. If possible, it would be better to let Mr. David arrange with some boat for the freight all the way through. This is frequently done, and in that way the double freight is a good deal lessened. I sent you a copy of the Bulletin, containing my address to its readers, upon my assuming its editorial chair.

R. S.

Memphis, Apr. 16th, 1867

Dear Colonel.

More than a month having passed since I wrote you, and not receiving any reply, I fear that my letter has miscarried. I informed you, that I had made a satisfactory arrangement, with the Bulletin newspaper, and that in consequence I would not return to the Academy. I requested you also to ship my furniture to me here, unless you could make sale of it, at what it cost me in New Orleans—sending you the bills to show the cost. I am sorry to impose so much trouble upon you, but I could not very well avoid it. I hope the military rascals who have control in Louisiana, under the Satrapy of Congress and Andy Johnson, do not mean to interfere with you at the Academy.⁷ Sheridan⁸ is such an ass, that there is no telling what he may do, under pressure of hungry Yankee schoolmasters;⁹ though I

⁷ The radical interference Semmes refers to was a constant threat at the Seminary during Reconstruction days. Seminary authorities feared—with some justification—that the legislature would withhold their funds if they did not admit Negro students. Benjamin Franklin Flanders, when he was appointed governor in June, 1867, assured a convention of Negroes that they "must have the right of admission into all the public schools of the state from the lowest to the highest," and asked for the list of vacant scholarships at the Seminary. He resigned as governor before he could take any action as to the admission of Negroes (Fleming, *op. cit.*, pp. 150-151).

⁸ Philip Henry Sheridan, Union general and commander of the Fifth Military District during this period, was devoted to the theory and fact of Reconstruction. He often used harsh and repressive measures in his district and, though supported by General Grant, he was transferred to the Department of Missouri in 1867 at the behest of President Johnson to whom his policies were very distasteful (*DAB*, XVII, 79-81).

⁹ Professor Fleming (*op. cit.*, p. 150) probably explained this reference when he wrote: "Many of the teachers in and near New Orleans from 1863 to 1866 were from the North, and believed that there should be no color line in the schools. Their opinions and acts were in many respects objectionable to the mass of the

hope sincerely there will be conservative influence enough around him to restrain him from the performance of so foolish a thing as taking control of the Academy. His small head has been so turned by Radical flattery, that he will be likely to do anything the d---ls at Washington may prompt him to. What a time your poor people in Louisiana have had of it to be sure; flood, famine,¹⁰ and all other disasters coming upon them as though they had really been abandoned by the Gods. By the way, does the Academy intend to confer any honorary degrees at its coming commencement? If so, I should be very much pleased if it would honor an English friend of mine with the degree of L.L.D. I speak of the Rev. Francis W. Tremlett of Belsize Park, London.¹¹ He is a clergyman of the Established Church; was our firm friend and admirer during the late war; labored for us, and spoke and wrote for us. His home was the headquarters of all the distinguished Confederates in London. He is an intimate friend of both Maury¹² and myself, and we should both be much gratified if you could confer on him the distinction which I..... [MS damaged]. He would prize it above all things as a memorial

whites, and in 1866, when the native whites were in control, numbers of them were dismissed and their places filled by Southern teachers. About the time of the New Orleans riot in 1866 several mixed schools which had been organized under the Freedmen's Bureau were broken up." No doubt Semmes referred to some of these displaced school teachers who might be seeking places in the Seminary. ¹⁰ There was a serious flood in 1867, according to Benjamin G. Humphreys, *Floods and Levees of the Mississippi River* (Washington, 1914), p. 23, but there is no record of a famine in the state. Semmes perhaps dramatized a temporary food shortage resulting from this flood.

¹¹Semmes had met Tremlett, a devoted Confederate sympathizer, in London after he was forced to dispose of his first command, the C.S.S. *Sumter*, in May, 1862. He proved a good friend, not only to Semmes but also to other prominent Confederates in England, opening his home to them whenever they were in London. See Raphael Semmes, *Service Afloat during the War Between the States* (Baltimore, 1869), p. 349.

¹²Matthew Fontaine Maury, naval officer, oceanographer, and prominent Confederate, was born in 1806. His international reputation as a scientist was well-established in the years prior to secession and the Confederacy quickly accepted his proffered services when war came. In 1862, he was sent to England as a special agent of the Confederate government. There his world-wide reputation made him an "effective spokesman for the Southern cause," and he was instrumental in securing warships for the Confederacy. Semmes probably met him prior to this, but the acquaintance was no doubt renewed in London. Semmes always entertained feelings of deep admiration and respect for Maury who, at the time this letter was written, was still in exile in England. He was persuaded to return to the United States in 1868 and became professor of meteorology at the Virginia Military Institute where he remained until his death in 1873 (*DAB*, XII, 428-431).

.....of the past, and of his sympathy and connection with the Southern cause. I hope Mrs. Boyd¹³ has her garden well underway, and that the Major's¹⁴ *engineering* has turned out satisfactorily. Present me very kindly to all my late associates, and believe me

Very truly your friend

R. Semmes

Col: D. F. Boyd.

Memphis Tenn.

April 22nd 1867

Dear Colonel.

I have just rec^d your letter of the 15th inst. In the meantime, I wrote you again, a day or two ago. I am much obliged to the Supervisors, and the gentlemen of the Faculty for the kind expressions contained in your letter, and I appreciate very kindly the privilege the former have accorded me, of keeping my professorship vacant until the end of the session, in view of the possibility of my return. I am not quite sure that I will not yet become disgusted with the drudgery of a daily press, and come back to you. The \$5000 that I receive here is really no more in the way of supporting a family than the \$3000 that I received at the Seminary—\$2000 being demanded for the rent of only a tolerable house in the better parts of the city. With regard to my furniture, I do not need it here at all, and you may take your time in disposing of it for me. I have sent you by the mail of today, a copy of a lecture recently delivered here by me, for the benefit of the widows and orphans of our Confederate dead. Remember me very kindly to Mrs. B. and the other ladies whom I had the pleasure to meet, and to my late confreres in the Seminary & believe me

Very truly &c

R. Semmes

Col: D. F. Boyd

Supt L^a State Seminary

¹³ Mrs. Boyd was the former Esther Gertrude Wright, the daughter of Jesse D. Wright who lived, at one time, in Saybrook, Connecticut (*DAB*, II, 55-56).

¹⁴ "The Major" probably referred to Major R. M. Venable, Confederate army engineering officer and graduate of Hampden-Sydney College and the University of Virginia, who was a member of the Seminary faculty at the time. Described as "genial, fun-loving . . . [and] popular with both cadets and faculty," he too left the Seminary in 1867. He practiced law in Baltimore until his death in 1910 (Fleming, *op. cit.*, pp. 132-133). Possibly the conditions existing at the Seminary led to some construction work on the part of the professor of engineering.

Memphis, Tenn.
June 18th 1867

My dear Colonel.

I have received your letter of the 12th inst. in which you inform me, that the Board of Supervisors will meet on the 26th inst, and that it is desirable that you should have, by that time, my final answer as to whether I design returning to the institution. With many thanks for the courtesy, and kindness, which you and the board have shown me, in keeping my professorship vacant for several months, that I might have the opportunity of returning to fill it, if I should so desire, I inform you, that I will no longer be an obstacle to the filling of the vacancy, as I think I see my way clear to making a support for my family, in this place, which I regard as a more desirable location for young sons and daughters. With regard to my furniture, if you cannot make sale of it, I will be much obliged to you if you will ship it to me at this place—making some arrangement with the boat, for a through freight.

I thank the faculty, and the ladies for their kind mention of me.

I remain very truly

Yours &c

Raphael Semmes

Col. D. F. Boyd

Supt. L^a Mil: Academy.

Mobile, Al^a

October 15th 1867

Dear Colonel.

Since I wrote you last, I have dissolved my connection with the Memphis Bulletin; my states-rights politics not suiting the *changed* veins of the proprietors. I presume that under the *new regime* of Louisiana,¹⁵ it would be useless for a Southern man to seek, or expect

¹⁵ The "new regime" probably referred to the program initiated by Sheridan following the passage of the second Reconstruction Act. Until this time, the people of the Fifth Military District—already "reconstructed" under the "Ten Percent Plan"—had been considerably encouraged by Johnson's disapproval of Radical theories of Reconstruction. In March, 1867, however, Sheridan removed the attorney-general, the mayor of New Orleans, and a judge; he further published regulations that disfranchised almost one-half the white voting population, though accepting all Negroes. He also issued a call for the meeting of a constitutional convention but was removed before it met in the fall of 1867. In it, when it met, were forty-nine Negroes and forty-nine whites, of whom all but two were Republicans. See John Rose Ficklen, *History of Reconstruction in Louisiana (through 1868)*, (Baltimore, 1910), pp. 182-187, 194-195.

to hold for any length of time, a professorship in the Academy. Have you been able to make sale of my furniture? I think I limited you to its cost price in New Orleans. You may now, if you can, dispose of it,—for fifty dollars less, as I suppose it would cost me that sum to have it sent to me here. The carpet I will ask the favor of you to send me, at your earliest convenience, without offering it for sale, as the freight on it would be a trifle. Should you, after another trial, be unable to sell the other articles, do me the favor to ship them to our friend Sauerbrick [sic] with the request that he will forward them to me here.

Present me very kindly to Mrs. Boyd, and such of the old professors as are still with you.

I am yours very truly
Raphael Semmes

Col: D. F. Boyd
Supt. L^a Seminary La

Mobile, Ala
Feb: 18th 1868

Dear Colonel.

Not having heard from you, I presume you have not been able to make sale of the furniture I left at the Academy. If so, be pleased to ship it to me by the first convenient boat, requesting Swarbrick to pay the freight to New Orleans, and reship it to me, collecting the freight paid by him from the New Orleans & Mobile boat. How are you getting along at the Academy, amid all the political turmoil that has been turning your state upside down, for the last twelve months? Let me hear how things go with you.

Yours very truly
R. Semmes

Col: D. F. Boyd
Supt. &c

Mobile, Ala
March 16th 1868

Dear Colonel.

Upon my return home from a short visit to Atlanta G^a, I received your note of the 21st of February, in which you tell me that you have sold my furniture &c. I approve entirely of what you have done, & owe you many thanks for the trouble I have given you in the

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matter. It will be quite convenient for me to wait until the 1st of April for the payment, as you propose, when you may remit to me in a draft on New Orleans, if not convenient to draw on this place. I made a very pleasant tour in Kentucky last winter, meeting with a reasonable degree of success—that is to say, netting about \$1000—per month. I would much rather be lecturing to a crop of young men than to a promiscuous multitude, however. I sincerely hope, for the sake of education and poor down-trodden Louisiana that you will weather the Radical storm, though it looks rather squally ahead. I thank you very kindly for your expressions of good will, and should you preserve your hold upon the Academy, and have a reasonable prospect of rendering it as useful as it ought to be to our Southern people, I should feel complimented to have my old chair, or still better, the chair of Constitutional law tendered me. Present me very kindly to Mrs. Boyd, and such of my old associates as are still with you.

I am very respectfully
& truly yours
Raphael Semmes

Colonel D. F. Boyd
Alexandria.

Mobile, Ala
April 21st 1868

Dear Colonel.

I have received your letter of the 15th inst, with draft enclosed. All is satisfactory, and I thank you kindly for the service rendered me in the matter. I am glad to hear you speak encouragingly of the prospects of the Academy, and of the State. Nothing can prevent the latter, I think, from passing under Radical rule, but I am glad that Talliaferro,¹⁶ who has probably been elected Governor, will not disturb you. I should judge from his name that he was a Virginian, and if this be so, he ought to have enough of the blood of the white man in his veins, and of the instincts of a gentleman, to prevent him from favoring any projects of amalgamation in Louisiana. Present me very kindly to Mrs. Boyd, & your associates & believe me

Very truly Yours & c
Raphael Semmes

Col. D. F. Boyd
Supt.

¹⁶ Judge J. G. Taliaferro of Catahoula parish had opposed immediate secession as a member of the Convention of 1861 and therefore was regarded as "an old gray-haired Union hero of secession" (*ibid.*, p. 198).

Book Reviews

Augusta Evans Wilson, 1835-1910: A Biography. By William Perry Fidler. University, Alabama: University of Alabama Press, 1951. 251 pp. \$3.50.

It is currently fashionable to regard the light reading of our grandmothers with amused condescension or ironic appreciation. The "handkerchiefly" novels by such popular purveyors of domestic sentiment as Maria Cummins, Susan Warner, and Augusta Evans Wilson are often mentioned by historians of literature with apologies for sponsoring sub-literary slumming excursions. Our ancestors doubtless should have preferred *The Scarlet Letter* to *The Lamp-lighter*, *Walden* to *Beulah*, and *Moby-Dick* to *St. Elmo*, but they found lachrymose classics extolling all the household virtues more to their taste. Exasperated with the preoccupation of the public with the cult of the hankie and the tear, Nathaniel Hawthorne complained to his publisher in 1855, the year of the publication of Mrs. Wilson's first novel, that America was "wholly given over to a d—d mob of scribbling women." Yet, if we are to understand the texture of the national imagination, we must know not only what nineteenth-century readers could and should have read, but the books they actually did read. Of these household favorites which sold by the 100,000, Augusta Evans Wilson's *Beulah* and *St. Elmo* were hailed as great American novels by a vast army of readers. In his readable biography of Mrs. Wilson, Professor William Fidler has told the story of one of the most gifted and popular of the domestic sentimentalists. He has also essayed with sympathetic insight the more difficult task of analyzing the profitable sentimental formula which appalled "serious" critics, enriched authors and publishers, and delighted millions of readers of all levels of sophistication.

Mrs. Wilson's life is filled with many parallels to the careers of her heroines. As a girl she knew the indignities and humiliation of poverty; she was a model daughter, sister, and wife; she "watched" at death-beds; she ministered to the ailing and unfortunate; she was roasted over the slow fires of religious doubt only to find peace in a "blind faith"; she married into "mansion-house luxury"; she won the adulation of her fellow-citizens who saluted her as "the first lady of Mobile"; she found her virtues rewarded with annual royalties of at least ten thousand dollars for more than twenty years. Cer-

tainly she had ample sanction for believing that goodness and prudence paid off handsomely in material comforts and prizes.

Despite these similarities between her own experiences and those of her heroines, readers of Mrs. Wilson's novels will find wide discrepancies between the life the author knew at first hand and the feverish world of her fiction. Her pages offer little evidence that she had witnessed an exciting migration to Texas, saw the ravages of the Mexican and Civil wars, and was distressed by the excesses of the "Reconstruction" of her beloved South. An explanation of this paradox is to be found in her conviction that literature should rise above life rather than reflect it. She preferred the falsetto to the natural, the ideal to the real. Dedicated to the notion that "real" life is not ennobling, she objected to *Adam Bede* as an example of "coarse realism." Although she distrusted human reason and exalted "the logic of the heart," Mrs. Wilson herself was a shrewd opportunist in supplying the public with the reading fare it wanted. She followed the promptings, not of her heart, but of cold common sense and business acumen in abandoning her projected history of the Confederacy which she described as "the great end of all my labors in the realm of letters" to return to the more profitable sentimental formula in *St. Elmo*. In this household favorite, the most popular of all her writings, she adroitly reworked all the stock devices of the female novelists, adding as her own unique contribution, a blend of erudition and emotionalism, treating her readers to a club sandwich of alternating layers of esthetics and sensation, passion and pedantry, anguish and edification.

The continuing popularity of Mrs. Wilson's novels—a paper-bound edition of *St. Elmo* was issued as late as 1949—raises many teasing questions with important implications for a study of popular taste. Why should a novelist who believed in the perfectibility of man and in the innate goodness of the human heart have distrusted popular democracy and the wisdom of the masses? Why did a champion of the untaught sallies of the soul cherish a deep fear of intuition? Why should political maturity be easier to achieve than esthetic maturity? How can genius exist without taste or artistic judgment? Such queries are raised if not always answered in Professor Fidler's admirable book. In lesser hands, this biography would have been either a panegyric or a burlesque. It is neither. Instead, Professor Fidler has added an illuminating chapter to the history of popular taste.

HERBERT BROWN

Bowdoin College

Alias Simon Suggs: The Life and Times of Johnson Jones Hooper.
By W. Stanley Hoole. University, Alabama: University of Alabama
Press, 1952. xxv, 283 pp. \$5.00.

"Every body has read or heard of Simon Suggs, whom 'Jonce' Hooper immortalized." A century ago, when these words were written, there was no hint of exaggeration in their tone. Everybody *had* read or heard of Simon Suggs, the shifty man, whose antics had been recorded in many a gusty tale of Alabama frontier life which had drawn laughter and applause from newspaper readers throughout the United States. And everybody, at least in Alabama in the 1850's, knew something about his creator, Johnson Jones Hooper, who, as editor of the *Montgomery Mail*, had become the best known newspaperman in the state at the age of thirty-nine. Hooper's editorial and political activities on behalf of the secession movement and the Confederacy served to increase his fame even more during the remaining eight years of his life; but if the memory of these labors died with him, the immortal Suggs, his alter ego, has kept his name alive and renewed its lustre, after ninety years of unmerited neglect, in a biography that deserves almost unqualified praise.

Dr. Hoole's *Alias Simon Suggs* is a noteworthy achievement in more than one respect. As a contribution to the growing body of knowledge devoted to one important segment of native American expression—the humor of the ante-bellum South—the book will take its rightful place beside such studies as Wade's *Longstreet*, Meine's *Tall Tales of the Southwest*, Blair's *Native American Humor*, and Hudson's *Humor of the Old Deep South*. As a milestone in contemporary Alabama scholarship, it will become a standard reference work on the literary and political scene in this state during the period of the rise of the Confederacy. And as a distinguished piece of biographical writing, skillfully organized and deftly presented, it will stand as a durable monument to both its subject and its author. It is therefore gratifying to have such a work, which revives the memory of one of Alabama's most amiable and widely respected figures, so competently performed by an Alabama scholar.

Foremost among the book's many noteworthy merits are its compactness and its variety of content. Within an overall span of roughly three hundred pages, the author presents the full story of Hooper's colorful career in the first two-thirds of the book, filling the remaining third with notes and bibliographical data which the general

reader may ignore if he chooses. The initiate, however, will not wish to overlook anything either in the text proper or in the fine print at the back, since he will discover before finishing the Prologue that *Alias Simon Suggs* is a labor of love, upon which infinite patience has been lavished in piecing together the thousand and one scattered fragments needed to form an authentic mosaic of "Jonce" Hooper's life. Indeed, if this reviewer's experience is typical, he will go on from there reading the book with one finger tucked in the notes, where much of its richest material is buried. But with or without the notes he will find the remaining ten short chapters and the Epilogue not only densely packed with a rich store of information, but also climactically arranged in such a way that the unfolding pattern of Hooper's varied career develops a sense of urgency, which is climaxed by one of regret that so worthy a life was so soon cut off.

Dr. Hoole's success in thus capturing the reader's sympathy for his subject is due primarily to his skill in keeping the spotlight focused on Hooper without isolating him from his picturesque environment, as well as to his obvious respect for truth and fact. The result is that we come to know Hooper in person, not a romanticized version of him, by his words and deeds and by the precise impression these made on his contemporaries; for in recreating his life and times the author has allowed no undocumented stroke to falsely color his characterization. The keynote for this authentic portrait is struck in the opening chapters, where we find, in addition to the conventional details of birth and family background, the subtler qualities of mind and spirit foreshadowing the adventuresome path that lay ahead for Hooper. Like his fellow Alabama humorist, J. G. Baldwin, Hooper first demonstrated his flair for the ludicrous in a bit of schoolboy satirical doggerel. Like Baldwin, too, he left the comparative security of the east coast to seek his fortune at the age of twenty in the newly opened territory of the Alabama frontier, there to become prominent in journalism, politics, and the law. Dr. Hoole is at his best, perhaps, in depicting the wild and woolly character of this frontier region in the 1830's and 1840's and in showing how Hooper transformed his experiences there into the hilarious tales of "Captain" Suggs which brought him nationwide fame.

From a literary point of view these were the most important years of Hooper's life, since it was during the period from 1843 to 1850 that his humorous yarns took the country by storm and thus contri-

buted in large measure to that indigenous stream of comic folk literature which flowed into the masterpieces of Mark Twain, Joel Chandler Harris and others of later date. Hooper's entry into this stream was by the usual route in his time: namely, through publication of his stories in his own local newspaper and then through their republication, first in William T. Porter's enormously popular magazine, *The Spirit of the Times*, and subsequently in book form and in many other newspapers. Beginning in 1843 with his diverting account of his actual experiences as census taker in Chambers County, Hooper quickly achieved national prominence as a result of Porter's recognition and repeated praise of his talent. Thus, as the various yarns about Suggs began to appear, they found an audience of thousands throughout the United States eager to receive them and clamoring for more. The extent of Hooper's popularity, clearly documented in Dr. Hoole's biography, is possibly the most astonishing fact established in the book; and if any unfavorable criticism may be mentioned, it is that Dr. Hoole passes too rapidly over the substance and techniques of Hooper's writing which won him such wide acclaim. He teases us with bare hints of the special flavor which Hooper's contemporaries relished to the full and found delightful. Instead of his merely listing the titles and dates of Hooper's stories along with the brief tributes paid them, one feels that a few summaries and critical analyses of the best stories might have served to clarify and strengthen the significance of Hooper's position as one of the leading minor writers of his time.

To have attempted these, however, might have required considerable alteration of the plan of the book in order to avoid giving disproportionate space to just one phase of Hooper's career. For even though he turned increasingly during the last twelve years of his life to editorial and political activities which now seem rather less important than the earlier products of his creative energy, they did not seem so then, either to Hooper himself or to the leaders of the Confederacy whom he so valiantly supported. Hence it is fitting that within the framework of his book Dr. Hoole should devote a greater share of attention to Hooper's later efforts. It would be presumptuous to ask him to give us more of Hooper when he has already given us so much.

EUGENE CURRENT-GARCIA
Alabama Polytechnic Institute

News and Notices

Thomas W. Martin is the author of a fifty-two page pamphlet, published by the Newcomen Society, entitled "Forty Years of Alabama Power Company, 1911-1951."

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"A Century of Science on Alabama Farms," the paper read by P. O. Davis at the 1951 meeting of the Alabama Historical Association, has been published in pamphlet form by the Alabama Polytechnic Institute Extension Service.

* * *

The Southern Historical Association, organized in Birmingham, November 2, 1934 is anxious to have new members join its ranks. Membership entitles one to four issues annually of the *Journal of Southern History* which publishes research articles, edited documents, book reviews, and news of historical interest. Anyone desiring to join should write for application blanks to Allen J. Going, Department of History, Box 1541, University, Alabama.

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James F. Hopkins, University of Kentucky, is attempting to compile and publish the papers of Henry Clay. He would be pleased to hear from anyone owning or knowing the whereabouts of any Clay material, including letters both to and by Clay.

* * *

Dwight L. Wilhelm, of Montgomery, has written and published a delightful but brief study, entitled *A History of the Cotton Textile Industry of Alabama, 1809 to 1850*. The little 141-page volume contains several very attractive drawings and photographs and is neatly and substantially bound.

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Among recent acquisitions of the University of Alabama Library are the papers of Marguerite Le Noir de Rouvray, Comtesse de Lostanges (1775-1852). This extensive collection of correspondence consists of several hundred original French documents covering the following major topics and periods: (1) letters of the Comte de Lostanges to his wife, April 7, 1792-April 6, 1797; (2) letters of the

Comte de Waldstein to the Comtesse de Lostanges, November 22, 1792-March 31, 1797; (3) letters of the Marquis and Mme. de Rouvray to their daughter, the Comtesse de Lostanges, June, 1791-June, 1796; (4) miscellaneous correspondence sent to the Comte and Comtesse de Lostanges, 1792-1793; and (5) diverse papers of the Duc de Levis, uncle of the Comtesse de Lostanges, 1791-1815.

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Walter W. Stephens, of Anniston, delivered the principal address before the Acme Club of Huntsville, May 4, at the dedication of a marker commemorating Andrew Jackson's encampment there following his forced march from Tennessee.

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The Huntsville Branch of the American Association of University Women presented their second annual pilgrimage of ante-bellum structures, May 3-4.

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Historic Mobile Preservation Society's 1952 Azalea Trail Festival Old Homes Tour was held May 4-8.

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A prize of fifty dollars for the best article or essay on the subject of the State of Nickajack is offered by Mr. Mervyn H. Sterne, a long-time member of the Alabama Historical Association. Entries will be judged by the editorial board of the *Alabama Review*, and the winning essay will be published in the *Review*. Manuscripts must be submitted to the editor of the *Alabama Review* by July 1, 1953.

